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WESTERN AMERICANA

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SUPPLIES FOR CIRCLE CITY.

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO THE KLONDYKE COUNTRY AND THE Gold Fields of Alaska

With the Official Maps

Profusely Illustrated

VIVID DESCRIPTIONS AND THRILLING EXPERIENCES

THE MOST COMPLETE AND THOROUGHLY EXHAUSTIVE COLLECTION OF EVERY KNOWN INFORMATION NECESSARY TO A FULL REALIZATION OF THE IMMENSE RESOURCES OF THE GOLD FIELDS OF ALASKA, AND REPLETE WITH AUTHENTIC INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING HOW TO GET THERE, WHEN TO GO, AND WHAT TO DO WHEN THE NEW ELDORADO OF THE GREAT NORTHWEST IS REACHED

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W. B. CONKEY COMPANY,
Publishers,
1897

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FOR FULL INFORMATION

AS TO

ROUTES AND RATES

TO THE

Klondyke Country

AND THE

Gold Fields of Alaska

WRITE TO THE

CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE AND ST PAUL RAILWAY

GEO. H. HEAFFORD,

General Passenger Agent,

415 Old Colony Building,

CHICAGO, ILL.

160
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140
130
PT. BARROW
ALASKA
MT. KELLY
FT. MORTON
GOLD FIELDS
TRAMWAY BAR
RAMPART HOUSE
FORT YUKON
PORCUPINE RIVER
MACKENZIE RIVER
ARCTIC CITY
CIRCLE CITY
SHAMANS VILLAGE
NUKLUKYETS
WEARE
FT. CUDAHY
FORT RELIANCE
DAWSON
N. W. TERRITORY
YUKON RIVER
SHAGLUK
FORT SELKIRK
MT. WRANGEL
KUSKOKWIM RIV.
MT. ST. ELIAS
HEALY'S STORE
JUNEAU
SITKA
BRISTOL BAY
OCEAN
PACIFIC
DUTCH HARBOR
VICTORIA
SEATTLE
SAN FRANCISCO
THE
NORTH AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION
AND TRADING COMPANY'S
MAP OF
ALASKA
Showing Direct Steamer Route
to the
YUKON GOLDFIELDS.
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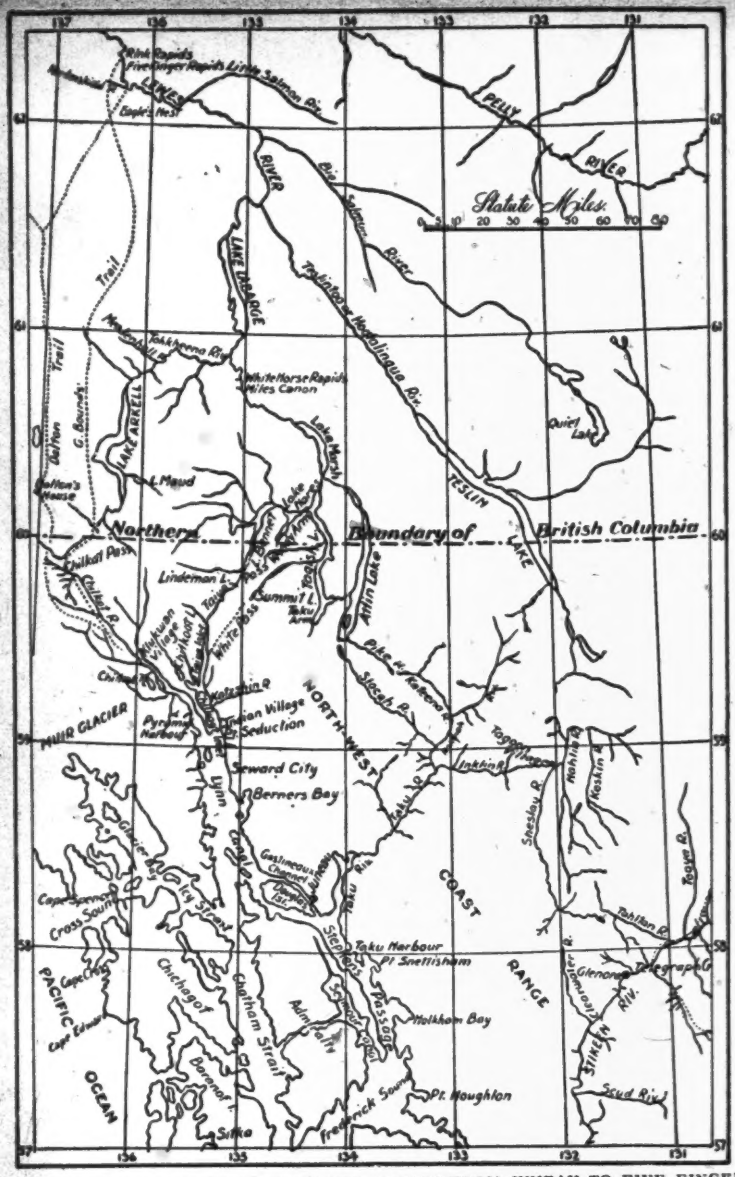
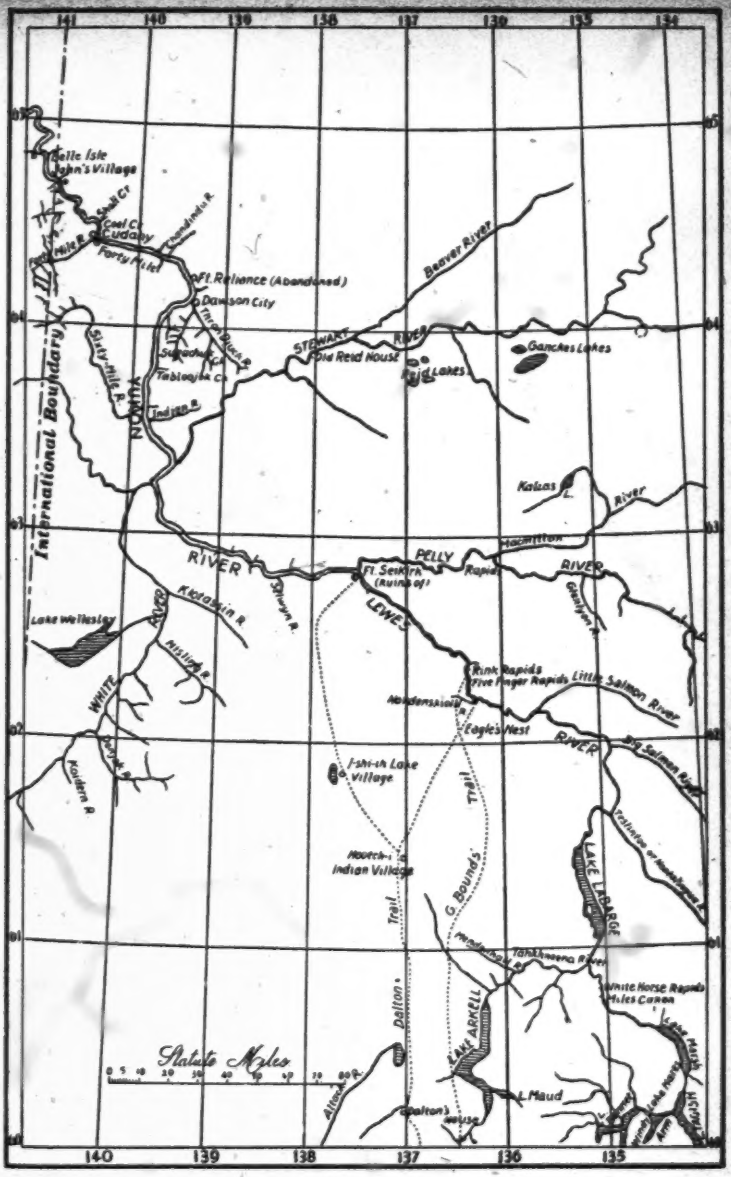


MAP SHOWING THE THREE OVERLAND ROUTES FROM JUNEAU TO FIVE FINGER RAPIDS ON THE LEWES RIVER, WHICH JOINING WITH THE PELLY RIVER AT FORT SELKIRK, MAKES THE YUKON RIVER.

Issued by the Department of the Interior, of the Dominion of Canada.



MAP OF THE YUKON RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.
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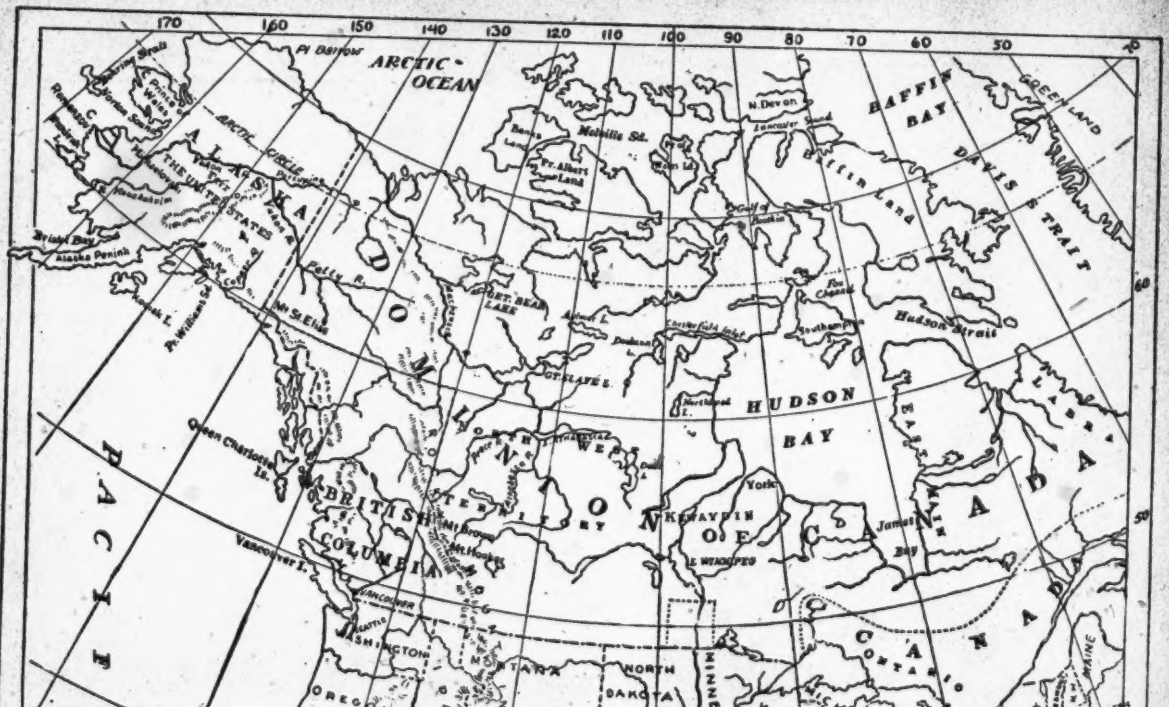

ARCTIC OCEAN
Pt Barrow
Melville Sd.
Pr. Albert Land
N. Devon
Lancaster Sound
BAFFIN BAY
GREENLAND
DAVIS STRAIT
Baffin Land
Gulf of Boothia
Fox Channel
Southampton
Hudson Strait
HUDSON BAY
LABRA
EAST MAIN
James Bay
York
KEWAYDIN
L. WINNIPEG
ALASKA
THE UNITED STATES
Alaska Peninh
Bristol Bay
Pt. Williams Sd.
Mt St. Elias
Felly R.
GT. BEAR LAKE
Aylmer L.
Chesterfield Inlet
GT. SLAVE L.
Northwest L.
DOMINION OF CANADA
NORTH WEST TERRITORY
BRITISH COLUMBIA
Mt Brown
Mt. Hooker
Queen Charlotte Is.
Vancouver I.
VANCOUVER
WASHINGTON
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NORTH DAKOTA
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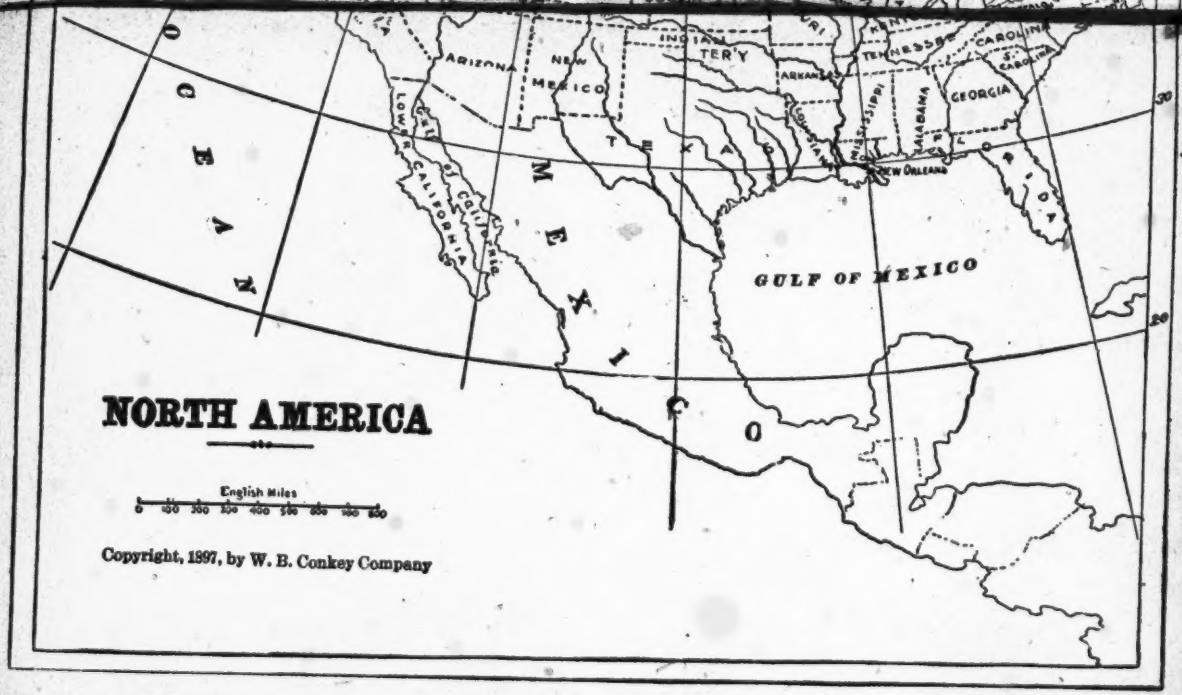
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English Miles
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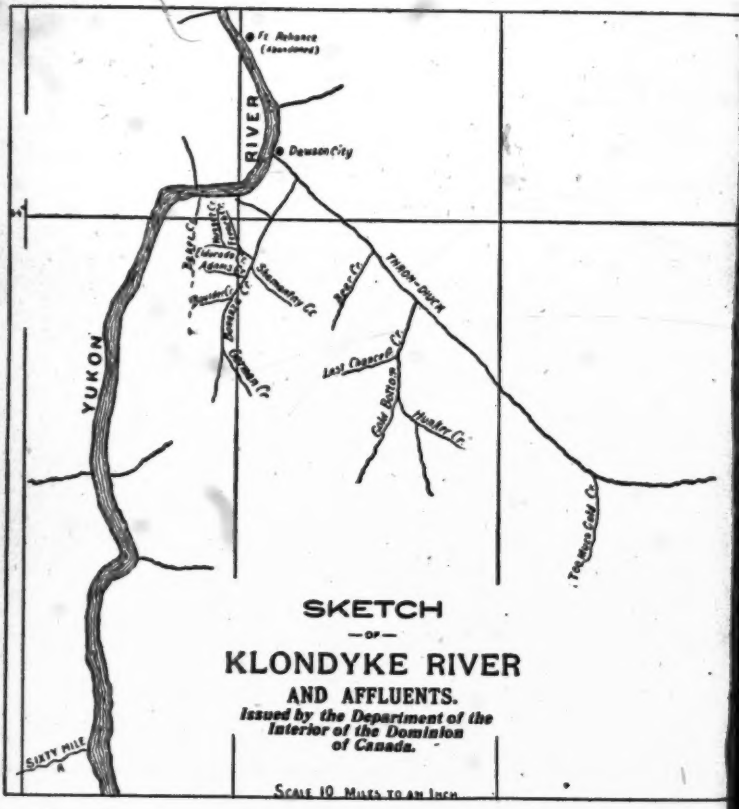
NEW MEXICO
INDIAN TER'Y
ARKANSAS
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
ALABAMA
GEORGIA
TENNESSEE
CAROLINA
FLORIDA
NEW ORLEANS
LOWER CALIFORNIA
GULF OF CALIFORNIA
30
20



SKETCH
—OF—
KLONDYKE RIVER
AND AFFLUENTS.

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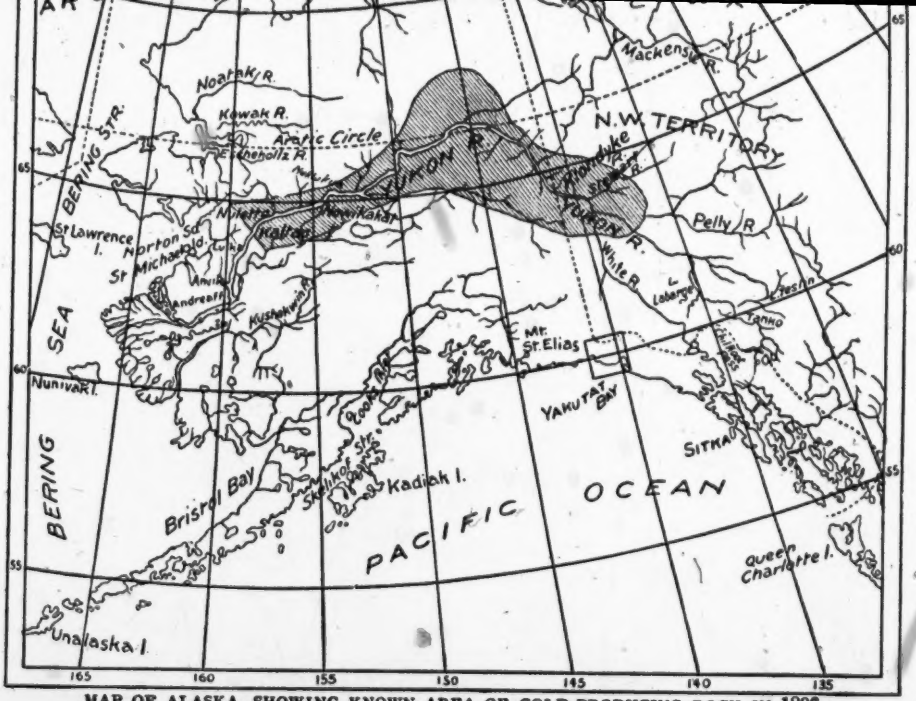
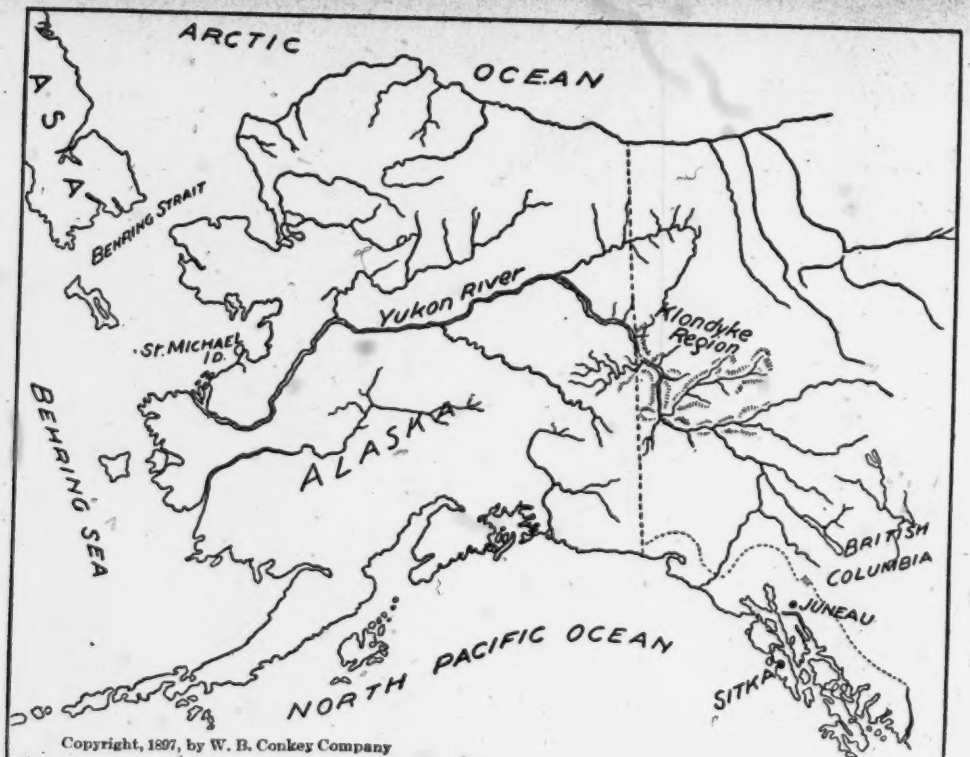


MAP OF ALASKA, SHOWING KNOWN AREA OF GOLD-PRODUCING ROCK IN 1896.
Prepared by J. Edward Spurr, of the United States Geological Survey.



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BUSTER'S 40-MILE FAVORITE.

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PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

Scarcely a word of explanation seems called for as to the issue of this Guide at the present time. The vast majority of books are launched into the world with a kind of half apology for their coming. Only a few can be said to appear in fulfillment of a public need. If ever there was a book issued to meet a genuine want and in response to a general demand it is the volume now in the hands of the reader. The name of "Klondyke" has suddenly become a talisman. The gold of the Yukon valley is in the thought and on the lips of the entire people. The brain and brawn of the country are joining in a rush for wealth to the Alaskan wilderness. Meanwhile our new treasure-house is comparatively unknown. The information concerning it is scant and scattered. This Guide presents all there is that can be regarded as useful and trustworthy. It has been specially prepared for the use of intending gold-seekers. There is living and reliable authority at the back of almost every statement. Even here we must express our thanks for the facts given by transportation companies and by others who have official relations with Alaska.

The maps themselves indicate the official source from which they were obtained, and the illustrations are all true photographic reproductions.

CONTENTS.

PAGE

CHAPTER I.
The Days of '97 21

CHAPTER II.
The Gold Fever 51

CHAPTER III.
Discovery and Location of Klondyke 78

CHAPTER IV.
At the Klondyke Mines 104

CHAPTER V.
Romance of the Mines 145

CHAPTER VI.
Life at Dawson City 183

CHAPTER VII.
To the Klondyke by Water 207

CHAPTER VIII.
Overland to the Klondyke 221

CHAPTER IX.
Transportation—Past, Present and Future 240

CHAPTER X.
The Two Governments 258

CHAPTER XI.
The Territory of Alaska 275

CHAPTER XII.
Resources of Alaska 284

LIST OF MAPS.

North American Transportation Company's Map of Alaska and route by steamer to the Yukon gold fields.

Map showing the three overland routes from Juneau to Lewes river and the gold fields, by the Department of the Interior of the Dominion of Canada.

Map of Yukon river and its tributaries, by the Department of the Interior of the Dominion of Canada.

Map of North America.

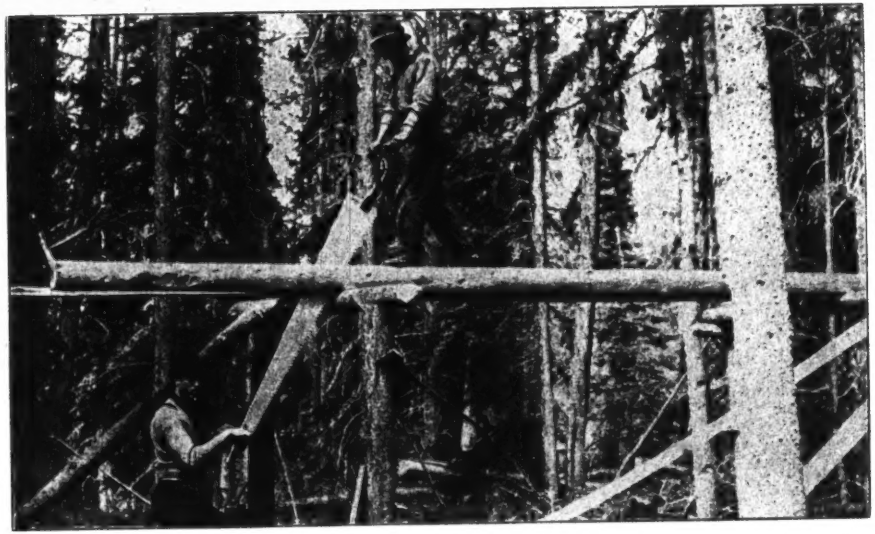
Map of Klondyke river and its affluents, by the Department of the Interior of the Dominion of Canada.

Map of Alaska, showing known area of gold-producing rock in 1896, by J. Edward Spurr, U. S. Geological Survey.

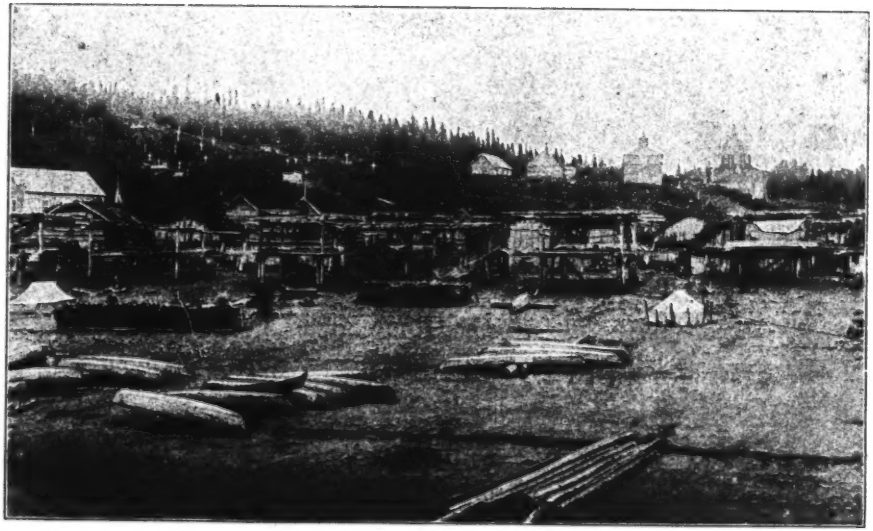
Map of the gold fields of the Northwest.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE.
Buster's 40-Mile Favorite	9
Supplies for Circle City	10
Saw Mill, Head of Lake Bennett	19
Russian Mission, Lower River	20
Crossing Dyea River	37
Placer Mining, Miller Creek	38
40-Mile from Across Creek	47
Group of Indian Children, Lower River	48
First Meal After Leaving Dyea	57
Steamer F. B. Weare	58
Start of Raft on Lake Lindeman	75
Opening Up of a Claim	76
Bonanza Creek Valley	79
Juneau. Bird's-eye View	85
Building The White Horse	86
Wooding Station, Lower River	95
Group of 40-Mile Miners	96
Fort Cudahy Warehouses	113
Steamer Sea Lion, Litauya Bay	114
Dog Team	123
Pelly Indians	124
Group of Miller Creek Indians	133
Steamer Arctic	134
Mr. Clarence Berry	146
Mrs. Clarence Berry	148
Mission, Fort Selkirk	151
60-Mile Post	152
Canoes and Indian Village, Litauya Bay	161
Group of Esquimaux, St. Lawrence Island	162
Camp Life	171
Trading Scene on Lake Le Barge	172
Joseph Ladue's Home	186
Yakutat	189
Caught in the Ice	190
Indians Near Mouth of Yukon	199
Kadiak	200
Joseph Ladue	206
Working Outfit	220



SAW MILL, HEAD OF LAKE BENNETT.



RUSSIAN MISSION, LOWER RIVER.

CHAPTER I.

THE DAYS OF '97.

"Klondyke or Bust"—Richest the World Has Known—Compared with "the Days of '49"—Poor Man's Mines—On to the Klondyke—"Tenderfeet" Are Winners—Made $1,000 in a Day—Big Wages for Laborers—Has All the Gold He Wants—"Chechockoes"—The Craze—The Luck of a Boy—Panning in the Cabins—A Happy Scotchman—Misfortune Made Hestwood Rich—Stanley Struck It Warm—A Thousand in a Pan—Found It in Clear Water—A Lot of Lucky Ones—London Gets the Fever—Tacoma Goes Wild—Wall Street Has It—The Mining Exchange Crazy—Many Syndicates Proposed—Keene and the Klondyke—British Columbia Excited—More Argonauts Sail Away—Joanquin Speaks Again—Going on a Bet.

This country has been seized with the gold fever many times in the last fifty years, but never since the yellow particles were first found in the Sacramento Valley has there been any such widespread interest as is now displayed over the Yukon discoveries. Men, and even women, talk of little else. In nearly every city parties are being organized to invade the Klondyke district. Experienced miners who have spent years in Alaska advise them that the road is beset with hardships, that cold and hunger and probably death, await many of those who go there at the wrong season of the year, but this friendly counsel has no effect in stemming the rush.

Corroborative evidence of the richness of the new fields was received in Seattle in the shape of $2,000,000 worth of gold dust, and now the cry of "Klondyke or Bust" is raised in all parts of the land. There is nothing like the sight of gold to incite a desire for possession of it. People will read with calmness of rich discoveries in various sections of the world so long as the actual product itself is not handed out for inspection, but when the nuggets and dust are passed around the craze strikes in deep and lasting. This is the secret of the present Klondyke excitement.

For years it has been known there was gold in the Yukon country, but it was not until an immense lot of it was brought back by successful prospectors that the people generally were seized with the determination to get some of it.

RICHEST THE WORLD HAS KNOWN.

The United States Government in 1867 paid Russia $7,200,000 for the Territory of Alaska.

Alaska has paid back her purchase money in gold four times, having produced during the time it has been a part of the United States about $30,000,000 of the precious yellow metal.

Today the eyes of the world are turned toward our frozen acquisition in the North, for within its borders has been discovered an Eldorado, seemingly "richer than Pluto's mine." Not long ago the word Klondyke, literally translated as Deer River, was known only to geographers and a few miners on the Yukon; today it is on every tongue and is known as the designation, if the reports be but half true, for a gold-bearing district greater in area and richer in character than any the world has known, with the possible ex-

ception of California. Klondyke is the new open sesame to Aladdin's cave; it supplants "Pike's Peak or Bust" in the gold-seeker's vernacular. "The days of '97" may become as celebrated a phrase as "the days of '49," for the same fever that seized upon the people and dotted the Western prairies with emigrant trains bound for the Pacific Coast is now claiming victims by the thousands, all eager to brave the perils of the Arctic circle and wrest a fortune from the frozen zone.

COMPARED WITH "THE DAYS OF '49."

The reported gold discoveries of the present day in Alaska and the reported gold discoveries of '49 in California afford many parallels. To the average man the treasures of the Coast State were seemingly as inaccessible as are the riches of the Yukon and its tributaries. One was more than 2,000 miles across a trackless desert and over snow-bound mountain passes, beset by savages, whose deadly attacks marked the trail with bleaching bones across the Western States; the other is nearly 7,000 miles by water, through a rigorous climate, or almost 4,000 miles by land and water, with mountain passes to scale as dangerous as those of the Swiss Alps.

The fabulous tales of wealth sent out by the California pioneers were no less wonderful than those brought back by the men who braved the last cold season in the Klondyke mineral belt, and in both cases those who returned brought back with them great nuggets of the precious stuff that left little or no doubt in the mind of the hearer. The California miner in the song who had so many nuggets that he was accustomed to "go a hatful blind" finds his parallel in the Yukon miner who claims to have "washed out" $212

in one panful of dirt—a process that requires ten or twelve minutes.

POOR MAN'S MINES.

The Alaska and California gold fields are alike also in being placer mines. Placer mining is commonly called "poor man's mining," for the reason that it is done without machinery, while the implements required in the work are few and of small cost. A placer miner can get along very well with a pick, shovel and gold pan. If the dirt is not rich he can accomplish better results by running it through a sluice box, but where the yield is in nuggets instead of fine gold he prefers to "pan" it.

The great Klondyke strike was made nine months ago, but nothing was known of it in the United States until June 15, when a vessel called the Excelsior arrived in San Francisco laden with miners from the Klondyke, who in turn were laden with gold.

They told almost incredible tales of the richness of the newly discovered district, where fortunes had been accumulated in a few months. Experienced miners and "tenderfeet" seemed to have shared good fortune alike, and with some justice, too, for the credit of the discovery of the new gold fields is due to the inexperienced men.

Another vessel brought to Seattle a second party of successful prospectors and a ton and a half of gold. These men had endured peril and undergone great hardships in accumulating the fortunes they brought, and they told a story that had a dark as well as a bright side. To follow their example means a risk of wealth, health and even life, but for those who are willing to take the chances the prospect they hold out is alluring.

ON TO THE KLONDYKE.

When gold can be picked up in heavy nuggets, people who want to gather it in its native state, turn instantly from the slower processes of milling, crushing, smelting and all that, to placers when they hear of a region where the yellow stuff "pans big." Hence, at this moment throughout the world the cry and the act are "On to the Klondyke."

The steamer Portland arrived at Seattle, on Puget Sound, July 17, 1897. Revelations from on board set Seattle City stark mad, and the craze has spread over the civilized earth.

The Portland came from St. Michael's, Alaska, at the mouth of the Yukon, with at least a million and a quarter in gold dust as freight and sixty-eight miners aboard.

Some of the miners had $75,000, and not one of them has less than $5,000, every dollar of which has been taken from the Klondyke within the year, and most of these men, with a competency now in their hands, have claims in that fabulously rich region that almost beyond doubt will net them hundreds of thousands more.

In the captain's cabin were three chests and a large safe filled with the precious nuggets, most of it taken out of the ground in less than three months of last winter. In size the nuggets range from that of a pea to a guinea hen's egg.

"TENDERFEET" ARE WINNERS."

One peculiar feature to be noticed is that the big strikes were made by "tenderfeet," while the old miners of many years' experience, after suffering indescribable hardships and privations in Alaska and the

Northwest Territory, had only a few thousand dollars to show for their labor. Fortune seemed to smile on the inexperienced men who went into the mining districts late last year, as nearly all of them were the most fortunate.

Instances are noted where single individuals have taken out, in two and a half months, gold to the value of over $150,000.

Clarence Berry is regarded as the luckiest man on the Klondyke. With a miner it is all luck; nothing else. Ten months ago Mr. Berry was a poor miner, $5,000 in debt, but now he is returned to his home in Fresno, Cal., with $130,000 in gold nuggets and a claim in the Klondyke that will yet produce untold wealth. He said rather modestly: "Yes, I've been rather fortunate. Last winter I took out $130,000 in thirty box lengths. A box length is 12 by 15 feet, and in one length I found $10,000. Another time the second largest nugget ever found in the Yukon was taken out in my claim. It weighed thirteen ounces and was worth $231.

MADE $1,000 A DAY.

"I have known men to take out $1,000 a day from a drift claim. Of course the gold was found in pockets, and those finds, you can rest assured, were very scarce. I would not advise a man to take an outfit that would cost less than $500. He must expect to be disappointed, and the chances are that he may prospect for years without finding a paying claim, and again he may be lucky enough to strike it rich.

"The country is wild, rough and full of hardships for those unused to the rigors of Arctic winters. If a man makes a fortune he is liable to earn it by severe hardship and sufferings. But grit, perseverance and

luck will probably reward a hard worker with a comfortable income for life."

Inspector Strickland of the Canadian mounted police has returned to Ottawa on official business. His statements were guarded and conservative. He said there were only two mining districts in what is known as the Klondyke section, and they are called the "Hunker" and "Bonanza" districts. He added: "When I left Dawson City a month ago there were 800 claims staked out, and there were between 2,000 and 3,000 people there. We can safely say that there was about $1,500,000 in gold mined last winter. The wages in the mines were $15 a day, and the saw mill paid laborers $10 a day.

BIG WAGES FOR LABORERS.

"The claims now staked out will afford employment for about 5,000 men. If a man is strong, healthy and wants to work, he can find employment at good wages. Several men worked on an interest or what is termed a 'lay,' and during the winter realized from $5,000 to $10,000 each. The mines are from thirty-five to 100 miles from the Alaska boundary."

William Stanley, of Seattle, was among the passengers. He left his son in charge of his interests in a couple of claims. He went to the Klondyke last year and now returns with nearly $90,000 in gold.

Henry Anderson, a native of Sweden, and well known on the Sound, sold a one-half interest in his claim on Eldorado Creek and came back to Seattle with $45,000 spot cash, the proceeds of the sale.

T. J. Kelly and son of Tacoma, went in last year and made $10,000. The son is in charge of the claim and the father was among the Portland's passengers.

Richard Blake, of Dungeness, has been successful and is coming back to the place where he was born and reared with a big sack full of nuggets. William Sloan, formerly a dry goods merchant of Nanaimo, B. C., sold his claim for $52,000, and with the gold he took from the mine has come back to civilization.

HAS ALL THE GOLD HE WANTS.

Another man by the name of Wilkenson, of the same city, sold his claim for $40,000, and is back to stay. Bob Strong, of Port Townsend, has a good claim and is in a fair way to make a fortune, but his brother, William G. Strong, was not so fortunate. They are both working on the Eldorado River. Jack Horne of Tacoma, formerly a well-known lightweight pugilist of Puget Sound, went to the Klondyke last fall and worked on a "lay," returning with something over $6,000. Frank Kellar, of Los Angeles, brings $35,000. He went in last year, mined during the winter and in June sold the claim for that sum.

Briefly, such was the story of nearly all the miners. They all had gold, and it was piled about the staterooms like so much hand baggage.

All of the miners laid great stress on the necessity of taking in plenty of supplies, and say that the proper outfit will cost not less than $500 to each man.

"CHECHOCKOES."

The captain of the steamer, speaking of the passengers, said: "These men are every one what the Yukoners call 'Chechockoes,' or newcomers, and up to last winter they had nothing. Today you see them wealthy and happy. These fortunate people felt so happy that anything would suffice for them. They

were grumblers, without a cent in the world, and nothing on the boat was good enough for them. Some of these successful miners do not even own claims. They have been working for other men for $15 a day, and thus have accumulated small fortunes. Their average on this boat is not less than $10,000 to the man, and the very smallest sack is $3,000. It is held by C. A. Branan, of Seattle, a happy young fellow just 18 years old. There is no country on earth like the Yukon."

THE CRAZE.

A telegram from Seattle on the date of the Portland's arrival, said:

"This verification of reports of great gold discoveries in Alaska has caused intense excitement. All classes of society are represented in the feverish rush to get north. Men neglect their business and congregate in groups on the streets in excited discussions. People are telegraphing friends and relatives to come and join them in the new Eldorado."

THE LUCK OF A BOY.

The richest strike has been made by a 21-year-old boy named George Hornblower, of Indianapolis. In the heart of a barren waste known as Boulder Field he found a nugget for which the transportation company gave him $5,700. He located his claim at the find and in four months had taken out over $100,000.

The richest section of Alaska, Moss says, is as yet undeveloped. It is 100 miles from Klondyke and known as The Black Hole of Calcutta. It is inhabited by ex-convicts of Bohemia, and murders and riots take the place of law and order. A few months ago the

Klondyke settlers organized a Justice Committee, and its law prevails there now.

With the great crowds preparing to go to the scene now, Moss says, hunger and suffering will be great, when added to other hardships to be overcome by those who survive. Moss returned with $6,000 in dust, and left promptly for his old home at Dubuque, Iowa, where he will spend the balance of his years.

PANNING IN THE CABINS.

Henry Lamprecht writes from the Klondyke to say that there are miles of rich pay dirt all through the region. Men have taken a tub of water into their cabin and with a pan "panned out" $2,000 in less than a day. This is said to be equal to about $40,000 a day in the summer with sluice boxes. They get from $10 to $100 a pan average and a choice or picked pan as high as $250, and it takes about thirty minutes to wash a pan of dirt.

Mr. Lamprecht also reports Circle City deserted. Excited men travel up and down the river and hardly know what to do. Wages have gone up to $15 a day of seven hours at Klondyke. Men will not work for wages any more; they can find ground of their own that will pay wages, and have good chances of finding it rich. Men who had to talk a long time to get their victuals last fall on credit, having not a dollar to pay on their outfit, are rich now, and some of them have opportunities of becoming millionaires.

This letter, received July 17, is dated March 24. Only two mails came to Circle City last winter, one being received March 23, which had been on the road from Juneau since January.

A HAPPY SCOTCHMAN.

Allan McLeod, of Perth, Scotland, came back with $92,500. His hands and feet were tied up in bandages, and his clothing was ragged and dirty as a result of a long sojourn in Alaska. He looked anything but prosperous, yet in his pocket reposed a draft for $92,-500, and an attendant took care of a deer hide sack heavy with gold nuggets.

Mr. McLeod is a baker by trade, a restaurant cook and proprietor by circumstance, a gold miner by accident, and a rich man by luck. Inflammatory rheumatism, contracted in the gold fields, made a temporary cripple of him and rendered his journey painful, yet he had a light heart as he pictured the surprise he would give his old friends in Scotland when he landed with his treasure.

"I went to Alaska early last summer," said Mr. McLeod, "with a crowd of miners who came up the Sound from San Francisco, I was out of money and work, or I doubt whether I would have accepted the offer they made me to go along as cook. We reached Cook's Inlet June 20, and things looked so discouraging we went back to Juneau. There we bought supplies and started for Dawson City, 750 miles away. We camped there, and I did the cooking for the boys. They did very well, but the gold fever took them farther East, and I remained to cook for another gang of miners. I made good wages, and finally had enough to start a restaurant. In two weeks I sold the place for $5,000 and went placer mining with a half-breed for a partner.

"We had good luck from the start, and I would have remained but for a severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism. It would have killed me but for the

nursing of my partner. He carried me most of the way to Juneau, where I got passage on a fishing schooner to 'Frisco. I am satisfied with what I've got in money, and hope to get rid of my rheumatism before long. Great fortunes are being found by many men, and no one knows the extent of the gold fields that are constantly developing."

MISFORTUNE MADE HESTWOOD RICH.

J. O. Hestwood, of Seattle, is a typical returned Argonaut. He is a small man, weighing not over 140 pounds, and has light blue eyes, clear skin, and a firm square jaw. He has been a preacher, teacher and lecturer, having delivered lectures all over the Coast of Alaska to pay his way up there. He spent three years in the territory before his great opportunity came. He was at Glacier Creek when the news was brought down of the immense strike on Bonanza Creek. Here is his story in his own words, which gives an admirable idea of the way the mines are worked:

"With hundreds I rushed to the new fields. After a few days I became disgusted and started to leave the country. I had gone only a short distance down the river when my boat got stuck in the ice and I was forced to foot it back to Dawson City.

"Well, it was Providence that did that. I purchased claim No. 60, below Discovery claim, and it proved one of the richest pieces of ground in the district. My claim will average 16 or 17 cents to the pan, and in addition to what I have already taken out, there is at least $250,000 in sight. Last season I worked thirty men, and I intend to employ more next year.

"Our manner of reaching gold is simple and not particularly expensive when one considers returns. Huge

fires are built over ground, and when it is thawed out men set to work. The frost is so hard, however, that the biggest fire thaws the ground for only one foot.

STANLEY STRUCK IT WARM.

William Stanley is one of the fortunate ones who returned on the Portland. He belonged in Seattle, and when he got back among the people who used to help him by giving him 10 or 15 cents to support his wife and several children, they could hardly realize it. At the closing of an interview, he said:

"When we had taken out the last of the $112,000, I threw down my pick and, turning my eyes heavenward, said: 'Good-by, old friend, I will never pick you up again,' and I spoke the truth.

"I love gold and I have it. Many times in my life the wolf has been close to the door. Now I have riches and will never work again, but in March I will go back and manage our properties."

In addition to his present fortune, he is interested with his son and two New Yorkers in claims which, he says, will yield $2,000,000.

During his absence in the far north the family struggled to eke out an existence, for everything that Stanley had went to pay his expenses to the gold fields.

Stanley is well on in years. His hair is gray, and when he left Seattle he looked as though a few more years would find him sleeping beneath the sod. He was not accustomed to hardships; for years he conducted a little book store in an out-of-the-way corner.

A THOUSAND IN A PAN.

B. W. Shaw, formerly a prominent insurance man of

Seattle, writes to an old business associate from Klondyke about the diggings and frankly says that he does not expect to be believed. "This is a great mining strike," says Shaw, "probably the greatest on the American continent, or in the world. I know you will not believe me if I tell you all about it. Gold has not been found in great paying quantities except on the creeks, about 200 claims.

"Some of the pay streaks are nearly all gold. One thousand dollars to the pan is not an uncommon thing, and as high as 100 ounces have been taken out of a single pan. It is not unusual to see men coming in with all the gold dust they can carry.

"You would not believe me when I tell you that I went into one cabin and counted five five-gallon oil cans full of gold dust, but it is a fact. It is the result of the work of two men during the winter, and the dump is not much more than half worked out.

"There has been about $2,000,000 in dust taken out so far in the district. At a low estimate I believe there will be $50,000,000 taken out during the next year."

FOUND IT IN CLEAR WATER.

Frank Phiscator, of Baroda, Michigan, went to the Klondyke last winter and has returned rich. He described the hardships of his quest for gold and declared most emphatically he would not care to repeat the experience. Phiscator reached the field in the dead of winter. He dug a hole in the ground large enough to hold himself and his provisions and settled down to make a fortune. He was discouraged, almost frozen and weak from insufficient food and over exertion, and he began to doubt that there was any gold to be found in Alaska, when one day, after a twenty-

mile tramp, he came upon a little stream which flowed down the side of a mountain and emptied into a sort of basin. The water was clear and the gravel bottom was covered with nuggets. He plunged into the icy water and picked up all the metal in sight. He buried the gold in the ground. From this time on things came easier. Phiscator joined a crowd of prospectors and they unearthed several claims of considerable value. He carried a deposit check for $50,000 to substantiate his story.

A LOT OF LUCKY ONES.

William Kulju—"I brought down just 1,000 ounces of dust and sold it to smelting works. I worked at Eldorado Creek, near Dawson, and was in that country about a year, and had a couple of dollars and a pack last summer when I went in. I sold my claim for $25,000, part cash and the balance to be paid as it is taken out. Now I am taking a trip to the old country—Finland—and am coming back next year."

Fred Lendeseen—"I went to Alaska two years ago, and when I left there six weeks ago I brought $13,000 in gold dust with me. I have had considerable experience in mining, and say, without hesitation, that Alaska is the richest country I have ever seen. I have interest in a claim near Dawson and am going back in the spring."

Greg Stewart—"I had a partner and sold out my interest for $45,000 and put my money back again at interest in mines. My partner had 1,500 ounces of dust, but it fell short four ounces on the way down. The dust will go over $17 an ounce, but we are all waiting for returns from the smelting works. I brought a few hundred ounces with me, but I get interest of 2

per cent on short loans. I expect to return next spring."

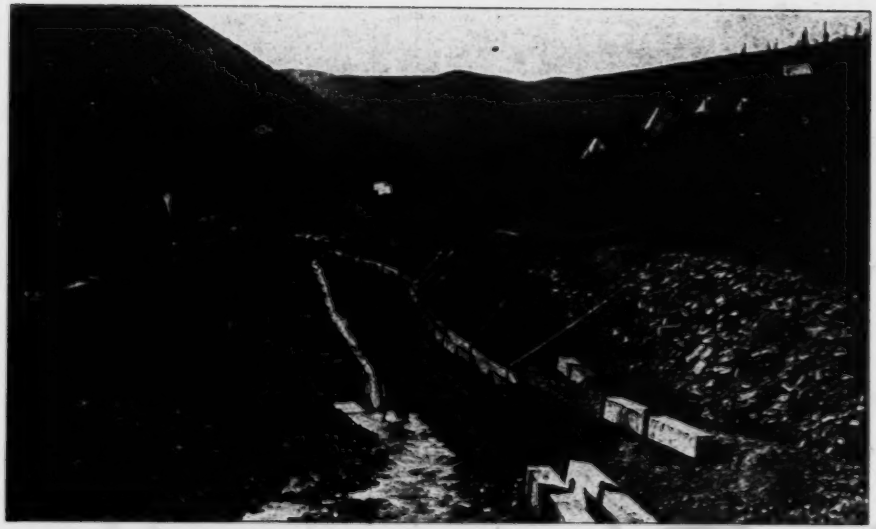
John Marks—"I brought $11,500 in gold dust with me, but I had to work for every bit of it. There is plenty of gold in Alaska—more, I believe, than the most sanguine imagine—but it cannot be obtained without great effort and endurance. The first thing for a poor man to do when he reaches the country is to begin prospecting. As snow is from two to five feet deep, prospecting is not easy. Snow must first be shoveled away, and then a fire built on the ground to melt the ice. As the ground thaws the shaft must be sunk until bed rock is reached. The average prospector has to sink a great many shafts before he reaches anything worth his while. If gold is found in sufficient quantities to pay for working, he may begin drifting from the shaft, and continue to do so as long as he finds enough gold to pay."

M. S. Norcross—"I was sick and couldn't work, so I cooked for Mr. McNamee. Still I had a claim on the Bonanza, but didn't know what was in it, because I couldn't work it. I sold out last spring for $10,000, and was satisfied to get a chance to return to my home in Los Angeles."

Thomas Flack—"My dust will bring more than $6,000. I have an interest in two claims on the Eldorado. One partner sold out for $50,000 and another for $55,000. I had an offer of $50,000, but refused it just before I came out."

J. B. Hollingshead—"I was in the diggings about two years, and brought out about 1,500 ounces, which I suppose will bring $17 an ounce. I'm not sure about going back, though I have a claim on Gold Bottom Creek, fifteen miles from Bonanza. It is less than a

CROSSING DYEA RIVER.



The above picture was taken on Claim No. 3 on Miller Creek, owned by Joseph Beaudreau, and from which there was taken out over $100,000. This picture gives a good idea of placer mining in Alaska.

year since I located my claim. My dust will bring over $25,000."

Albert Fox—"I and partner went into the district in 1895 and secured two claims. We sold one for $45,000. I brought 300 ounces, which netted $5,000. Everybody is at Dawson for the present. The district is apt to be overrun. I wouldn't advise anyone to go there this fall, for people are liable to go hungry before spring. About 800 went over the summit from Juneau, 600 miles, so there may not be food enough for all."

LONDON GETS THE FEVER.

Klondyke discoveries promise to start a fever in London, as well as New York. The South African successes have educated the Londoner up to the gold fevers, and the agents of the Atlantic Transportation Company and other cheap lines tell of many applications from men wishing to go to Alaska.

The new Canadian Transatlantic line is actually hurrying work up on a line of new boats so as to get its share of the rush.

The tremendous number of experienced gold miners in London who have worked in South Africa would make formidable rivals to the amateur American fortune seekers.

TACOMA GOES WILD.

Since the Klondyke gold fever struck Tacoma the town is turned inside out. The condition of the people can be described in no word save crazy. They are literally insane with the thirst for gold. All classes share in the excitement.

Employes in every calling are beginning to leave their places to go to Alaska and dig in the river beds

for the shining nuggets. The result is that nobody is looking for work. Telegrams have been received from New York and London, inquiring how many hundred men can be equipped on short notice for a journey to the gold fields.

The street car employes of the town held a meeting, selected nine men to go to Klondyke, and will back them. The profits of the venture are to be divided by all. The fever has smitten business men, doctors, lawyers and politicians. Ex-Governor McGraw is a victim and has gone to the gold country.

WALL STREET HAS IT.

In New York knots of brokers gather on the street corners these days to discuss the Klondyke gold finds. In the offices of responsible firms the question of sending out representatives is warmly discussed. Next spring action will be taken both by financial houses and private syndicates. Among the Wall street operators now seriously discussing the subject are Burrill & Stitt, of No. 16 Broad street; H. L. Horton & Co., of No. 66 Broadway; Washington E. Connor and "Deacon" Stephen V. White.

A. A. Housman, a member of the Stock Exchange, and head of the banking and brokerage firm of A. A. Housman & Co., said: "Several men in this office are anxious to go to the new fields. We have discussed the question of sending a man there in charge of a party, but have not reached a conclusion. Competent and reliable men for such an undertaking are not easily found.
not easily found. Those who go to the Pacific coast over the Northern Pacific, Great Northern or Canadian Pacific will take their chances of securing passage by

steamer to Juneau or Dyea and then proceeding overland to Dawson. By many this is regarded as the most feasible route and those who ought to know say it has been rendered much easier by the recent discovery of a new pass much easier of ascent than the old route via Chilcoot pass. Nevertheless the journey is full of peril for those who have had no experience in packing provisions over icy, snow-clad mountains and shooting the rapids of a mountain stream."

THE MINING EXCHANGE CRAZY.

At the Mining Exchange, New York, the Klondyke fever is on with full virulence. Brokers look for a repetition of the South African excitement which recently prevailed in London.

Propositions have been made for listing some of the new Klondyke corporations, and steps are being taken to put them on call with ample protection to the public.

At No. 96 Broadway, New York, a company, which has a capital of $150,000, was formed under the laws of Colorado, by James Rice, formerly Secretary of State of Colorado; George P. Morgan, a representative of the company, is now at Circle City, Alaska.

MANY SYNDICATES PROPOSED.

Syndicates are springing up like mushrooms after a rain. From all parts of the country advices are received of the formation of companies.

Corporations like that of J. Edward Addicks, which was originally intended to operate for gold in the Cariboo district of British Columbia, are extending their field of action to include the Klondyke. Addicks opened his stock books simultaneously in New York and Philadelphia. He calls his venture the Yukon-Cariboo-British Columbia Gold Mining Development

Company. Of course, Addicks is president; E. F. J. Gaylor, auditor of the Manhattan Elevated, is treasurer, and Charles H. Kittinger, secretary. Mr. Addicks' office, in the Manhattan Life Building, No. 66 Broadway, was at once thronged with investors. From the opening of the office until 3 p. m. investors came and went. All sorts and conditions of subscribers added their amounts, both large and small, to the fund, for exploring and developing the headwaters of the Yukon River. George A. Kelly, who has charge of the office, said that the amount of shares taken exceeded expectations, and that advices from Philadelphia indicate the same condition. One party sent out by the company has sailed in charge of General M. E. Carr. Another party, headed by George P. Kittinger, a well-known mining expert, will leave Seattle August 12. Six experienced miners will accompany him. They will go to Juneau and proceed overland by way of the Chilkat Pass.

KEENE AND THE KLONDYKE.

James R. Keene, the veteran Wall street operator, is enthusiastic over the gold fields of the Klondyke. He says:

"I am confident, from the reports received—which there is no reason to doubt—that an immense amount of gold will be added to the world's store from this field. Of course, hundreds of poor fellows will go there under intense excitement, without proper provisions, clothing or working outfit. Many of them will fall by the wayside. This has been the case in every previous excitement of the kind, and history repeats itself.

"The most serious problem is that of transporta-

tion. Everything depends on a successful solution of this problem. Reports indicate that thus far the means of ingress and egress are very limited at all periods of the year, and during the winter practically do not exist. If fodder for the mules which carry provisions to the camp must be carried on the miners' backs, compelling, in many cases, the killing of the animals, owing to lack of fodder, the problem is indeed a serious one. As soon as it can be solved I believe large amounts of capital will be invested there.

"The matter of sending representatives to the fields I know to be under discussion among several Wall street men. Given the right man, there is no doubt Wall street money would be forthcoming in necessary amount to send him to the Klondyke with a sufficient force of men to accomplish something."

BRITISH COLUMBIA EXCITED.

The town of Nanaimo, British Columbia, is aflame with excitement over the discoveries in the Klondyke. All the population want to move to the gold fields because two of its citizens have come home with dazzling fortunes made in a year in the Yukon. John Wilkinson and William Sloan tired of coal mining and went to the Yukon.

A sack containing over $50,000 worth of gold nuggets, displayed in a Nanaimo Bank window today, shows more vividly than words could express the profits of Mr. Wilkinson. Sloan has as much or more, and they both have their claims, which are said to be worth a million each yet.

Wilkinson has just given orders for the construction of one of the finest houses in British Columbia. Speaking of the Klondyke, he said:

"On Bonanza Creek there are sixty good paying claims below the discovery this year and fifty above. Every one of these will require from five to eight years to get the gold out, working twenty men on each, and all the time. On the Eldorado there are forty good paying claims. Besides these creeks there are many more in which the pay dirt is plentiful, so that there is room for thousands of miners for years to come."

Mr. Wilkinson does not belittle the hardships of the Yukon experienced. He says he stood at the windlass on his claim when the temperature was sixty degrees below zero, and it took his party three months to pack in their outfits, which weighed a ton to each man. Even with that supply their provisions ran out, and both Sloan and Wilkinson believe that there will be suffering this winter for lack of food. They say a man can take out half an ounce a day almost anywhere, but that they would scorn to work on such poor dirt.

Sloan exhibits a very large nugget, while Wilkinson has one nearly as large as a man's hand. Sloan says that he could go into the Klondyke now in thirty days without supplies, but he very much doubts whether the hundreds who are starting now, intending to pack in their own outfits, will get through before the Yukon is frozen. Packing in with horses, he says, is next to impossible. Sometimes the horses have to be hauled up steep places with ropes, and feed is scarce and hard to take along.

MORE ARGONAUTS SAIL AWAY.

One who writes quaintly tells this story of the sailing of a great crowd of gold-seekers for the fields of Klondyke:

"'Let us go above where we may see the crowd. God does not give us many scenes like this,' says Joaquin Miller, 'and a little later, as we stand on the hurricane deck of the Mexico and face the great throng that lines the shore, the poet is heard murmuring some lines that Walt Whitman wrote. 'Faces, faces, human faces,' one's ear catches distinctly as this remarkable man gazes and gazes, his kindly eyes glistening with feeling; then, though his lips move, no words are heard.

"'Give me faces, human faces,' the voice is audible again.

"'Wait a bit,' exclaims the artist, 'I must catch him so.'

"No wonder.

"The tall figure of the poet looms commandingly above the passengers on the deck.

"The spectacle around is deeply touching. The docks of Seattle and the craft afloat in the blue waters of the Sound are dotted with those who have come to witness the departure, and the pier from which we are casting off could not easily hold more than have thronged thither. The decks of the Mexico are crowded with the adventuresome four hundred bound for the gold fields of the Klondyke.

"There is peculiar pathos in the eagerness, the hopefulness, the absence of tears. Few faces aboard the steamship that are not aglow with a distressing something that seems to tell of soul-fever lest even while these moments of parting are winging my' chances of fortune in the land of the midnight sun are forfeiting. Tempering this painful anxiety comes the soft yearnings of the dear ones left behind; but not a tear shed they. Indeed, if there are those aboard ship or along

shore, in whose eyes the mists gather visibly, not any of our party sees them.

"There is a frenzy in it that fevers the heart too much for tears, and herein is the supreme sadness, for that it can be so argues a world awry. As the last rope is let slip and the Mexico swings slowly out from her dock cheer on cheer rings out on the morning air and answering shouts arise from the voyagers; 'kerchiefs wave and godspeeds hurry the steamer forward.

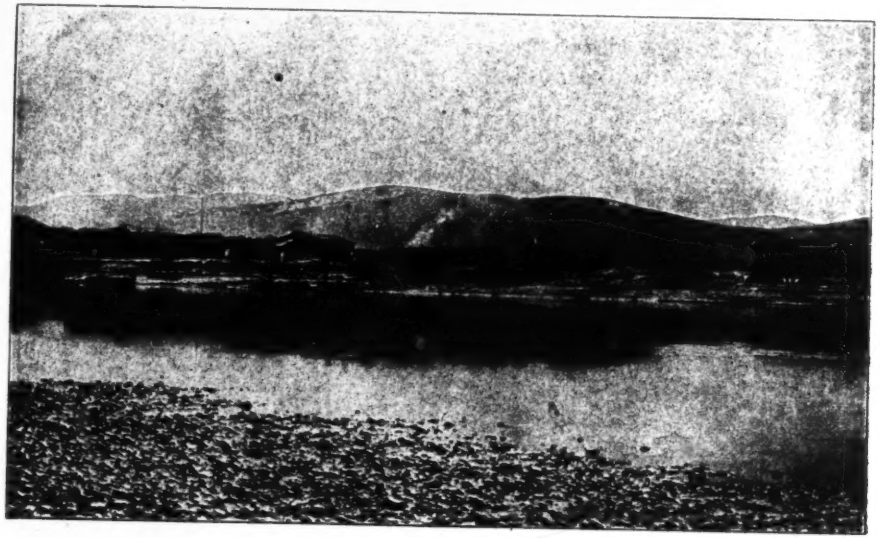
"Slowly the vessel creeps out into the Sound, and the cheers are borne to us faintly and more faintly, and the faces on the shore lose their individuality, and now the crowd its shape. Yet a little while and the thronging city fades into blue, and the lingering eye gives its best glances to the Rainier alone, majestic Rainier, like Blanc, a monarch of mountains:

'They crown'd him long ago on a throne of rocks,
In robes of clouds, with a diadem of snow.'

JOAQUIN SPEAKS AGAIN.

" 'I never saw a cleaner, more respectable assembly of men before for the mines.'

"It is the poet, again, who is speaking. The voyagers are of many classes, but there is a noticeable absence of roughs and a notable presence of men manifestly unused to the life of a miner. They are a healthy-looking, resolute-appearing set of fellows, for the greater part, dressed for a plain life in the wilds, and earnest to the degree that gives the lookers-on a heart-ache in apprehension that not all among them will fare well in the land whither they are sailing. The barrier between classes has been battered down; fellow-feeling as to the mines has already made chums of



40-MILE FROM ACROSS CREEK.

men who would hold aloof from each other under ordinary circumstances.

"There, for instance, sprawled out full length and chatting as though friends for many years, are a bright-seeming lawyer and a man who long has been a hostler in Portland. Beside the rail, engrossed in exchange information sit an ex-Judge of Seattle, and a drayman, who journeyed on the train that bore our party from San Francisco. Here stands Joaquin Miller, listening intently to the opinions of a thin-faced youth, who abandoned employment in a Tacoma restaurant that he might seek gold near the Arctic Circle.

"There is a physician aboard the Mexico who is as thin as Senator Ingalls and as pale as a summer cloud. He believes he has consumption, and was heard to observe that at best he could not live more than two years longer. He is bound for Dawson City by way of the Chilkoot Pass and intends to mine.

" 'There won't be much need of Doctors up there,' he explains, 'and even if I could make something by practice of my profession, I could not afford to throw away the better opportunity the mines afford. I want to leave my little ones a fortune.' "

GOING ON A BET.

"An example of very different type is afforded by J. D. Thagard. He was the proprietor of the Northern Hotel, in Seattle, until recently. He has no need, financially, of following the fortunes of a miner. Moreover, he weighs 300 pounds, and has the paunch of Falstaff. On his cards, which he is distributing gleefully, these words are printed in the left upper corner: " 'The biggest thing that ever started on the trail for the Klondyke.'

"'A friend offered to wager $500 I could not go to Dawson by the mountain route,' he tells, 'and as I thought I would like to do a bit of mining, I accepted the wager. So I am going through the Chilkoot Pass, or die in the attempt. I don't expect to have a funeral on the way, and I'm so dead sure of that $500 I feel genuinely sorry for the other fellow.'

"There are several women aboard who are determined to press through to the mines, no matter what the perils. They are wives, and accompany their husbands. One of them, Mrs. P. Sutherland, of Ballard, Wis., is exceedingly enthusiastic, and not anything in the way of narrative of danger or hardship could dull the edge of her enthusiasm.

"'Of course, I shall mine,' she says, 'when I can look up from my housework. Why shouldn't I? I'm sure it will be perfectly lovely. Did I ever mine? Well, no; but what difference could that make?"

CHAPTER II.

THE GOLD FEVER.

San Francisco Stirred Up—Thousands Will Seek Fortunes—Great Rush to the Land of Gold—Portland Catches the Craze—Seattle Greatly Excited—A Large Party for Alaska—An Old Yale Man Aboard—A Representative Scene—Richest Mines in the World—Deserting Alaskan Towns—Off for the Klondyke—Crazed by Lust of Wealth—Love of Gold All-Absorbing—Pathos of the Scenes—Klondyke Fever Spreads Far—Minneapolis Feels It—Milwaukeeans Are Going—Gold the Magic Word—Chicago Catches the Infection—Many Seek Information—Overland Route Advised—Speculators in Clover—Gold Fever Reaches New York—A Canadian Report—Marvelous Results—Superb Panning—Coal Prospects—Great Rush to Take Claims—Workings Are Usually Rich—Valuable Claims.

San Francisco has not been stirred by any mining discovery since the opening up of the great bonanzas on the Comstock lode in Nevada, nearly thirty years ago, as it has been in these days by the stories of two score sun-tanned and hard-featured miners who have returned from the new Klondyke camp on the Yukon River in far Alaska.

The stories would have excited derision were it not that all these men were able to furnish ocular proof of their tales with pounds of yellow gold. Not one of the party went into this camp last fall with anything more than his outfit and a few hundred dollars. Not

one came out with less than $5,000, a dozen cleaned up from $10,000 to $20,000, while half a dozen averaged from $20,000 to $90,000. Scores of them left claims that they valued at $20,000 to $1,000,000, which are now being worked by their partners or by hired laborers. They are not boasters or boomers. In fact they are careful to warn anyone about venturing into the Yukon country unless he is young, vigorous and brave, able to bear hardships, and has from $500 to $1,000 for outfit and current expenses after reaching the new gold fields. Perhaps it is these very conservative views which have made their talk take such powerful hold on the popular imagination.

THOUSANDS WILL SEEK FORTUNES.

Of course, this first keen enthusiasm may fade and next spring may see few go to the far north, but no one who has observed the popular feeling will be surprised to see 5,000 men go from San Francisco, and perhaps 1,500 or more will start in August.

The blood of the argonauts flows in the veins of half of the Californians, and stories of rich mining strikes stir them as a blast of trumpets. Every one here knows the history of the far northern bonanzas and is prepared to discount the extra enthusiasm of returned miners, for all remember the hard fortunes of the thousands of Californians who rushed to Cariboo and Frazer River placers nearly forty years ago, only to find that there were fifty men for every claim and that the paying district was so small it could not support 5,000 men.

Klondyke may be a repetition of Cariboo, but from what is said by hard-headed old miners with whom a news correspondent has talked there is gold-bearing

country enough around Dawson City to support a great population, and the only danger lies in the scarcity of provisions during the long winters, when fresh supplies cannot be brought in. Should transportation companies do no better than they have done for the last two years, and should 20,000 or 30,000 men crowd into Klondyke, there will be actual starvation, with possible crime.

GREAT RUSH TO THE LAND OF GOLD.

An indication of the spirit which actuates men is found in the following from San Francisco:

In spite of the warnings that have been given out by returning miners concerning the possibilities of starvation in the Klondyke country during the coming fall and winter, thousands of people here are bending every energy to reach the land of gold.

Most of the available steamers and yachts have been chartered by private individuals and speculators, and there seems to be no doubt that they will have a full complement of passengers when the time for sailing arrives.

The gasoline steamer Chalcow has been purchased by an English syndicate for $8,000. It is the purpose of the syndicate to take one hundred men who will put up $1,000. They will work on the co-operative plan.

The gasoline schooner Hattie B. has also been sold to a company of adventurers. The schooner James A. Garfield has been chartered by the Alaska Commercial company to take a load of merchandise to St. Michaels."

Woodie Old Book Store

PORTLAND CATCHES THE CRAZE.

Portland, Oregon, also felt the swift rush of enthusiasm, as the following from a local paper will show:

"The announcement that the steamship George Elder would sail from Portland July 30 direct for Alaska has caused a rush to the office of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company, and already one-half of the passenger accommodations have been sold and a large amount of freight space disposed of.

"Orders for miners' supplies have been coming into the city by the hundreds, and merchants in Seattle are unable to meet the enormous demand. A wholesale dry goods house of this city has had a force of seventy-five men and twenty-five girls at work night and day for five days on rush orders of clothing for intending prospectors.

"A bag company is also hard at work on an order for 1,600 canvas bags to be made especially for the carrying of clothing and provisions. They are also securing a large number of tents. The woolen mills at Salem, Ore.; Oregon City and Albany have all increased their forces to meet the demand for heavy woolen goods.

SEATTLE GREATLY EXCITED.

Seattle went wild, as did every western city, when the news of the Eldorado struck it. Following are a few ecerpts from local papers:

"It is authoritatively stated here tonight that ex-Governor J. H. McGraw and General E. M. Carr, who left Seattle Thursday on the Portland for the Klondyke, go as representatives of a New York company with $5,000,000 capital, headed by J. Edward Addicks of

Delaware. The company is to complete incorporation in New York Monday. The Western directors are ex-Governor McGraw, General Carr, and George B. Kittinger of this city. It is also said that Senator John L. Wilson is interested. It is to be incorporated under the name of the Yukon, Caribou, British Columbia Gold Mining Development company, limited. George B. Kittinger, Mr. Addicks' confidential manager, will follow McGraw and Carr to the north in a few days."

A LARGE PARTY FOR ALASKA.

Here is another story from Seattle indicative of the strength of the fever as it obtained on the coast:

"All of Seattle crowded down to the harbor today to say farewell to the gold hunters who started on the Portland for the Klondyke fields at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

"The city was in holiday attire and business was practically suspended. All interest focused on the wharf, where fully 10,000 persons gathered and talked of gold. Nothing else is talked of here. Discipline in the municipal departments, stores and every sort of business is gone. Every salaried man is endeavoring to get passage to Alaska, and employers, fearful of being left without help, have nothing to say when clerks choose to go to the wharves or step out to talk of gold with any chance acquaintance.

"From 12 o'clock noon up to the time of departure ten thousand people thronged the wharf, constantly coming and going. People were scattered along the bluff and could be seen in all windows overlooking the bay. Last farewells were said dozens of times, and while some laughed and joked, others were sad,

and not a few shed tears. The moment the words 'cast off the lines' were heard a hush swept over the crowd.

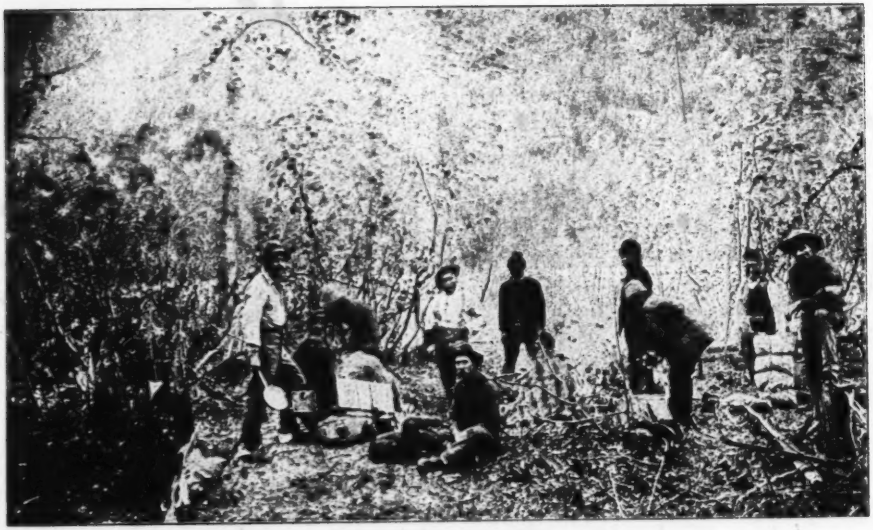
"The big black hulk moved away from the wharf and the crowd surged nearer and nearer to the water's edge. Then it was that the mothers, wives and sweethearts hid their faces and wept. Those on board were more cheerful than those on shore. The adventurous spirits who seek gold, to make and in many cases recoup fortunes, held every point of vantage on the steamer. Five or six women were counted and one 10-year-old girl.

AN OLD YALE MAN ABOARD.

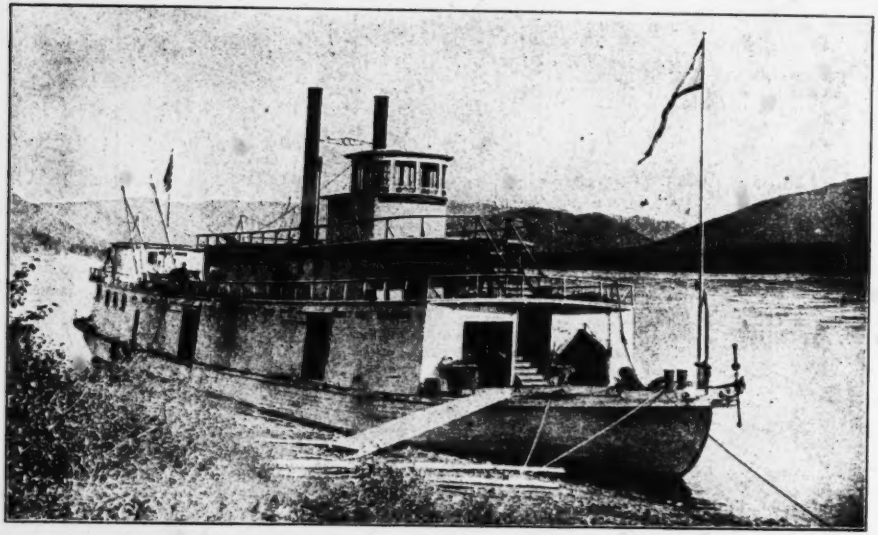
"Ex-Governor John H. McGraw stood on top of the cabin. At his side was his son Thomas, a mere boy. General E. M. Carr of the national guard was at the governor's elbow. Captain A. J. Balliet, one of Yale's famous oarsmen, and George Folsom, member of a prominent family of Boston, could be seen.

"The Portland is owned by the North American Transportation Company and will unload 7,000 tons of provisions at Dawson this season. She has 1,000 tons of general merchandise on board this trip, mostly food. Her official list shows 128 passengers. The steamer Cleveland, which has been chartered by the same company that owns the Portland, sails for St. Michaels and Klondyke Aug. 5, and will land passengers there Sept. 10.

"Fred Price, a Seattle man who has returned from Klondyke with several thousand dollars in gold dust, says that there is great fear of suffering on the part of those who attempt to go into that country without an abundance of supplies of provisions. He does not



FIRST MEAL AFTER LEAVING DYEA.



STEAMER P. B. WEARE.

believe the trading companies can begin to supply the demand which will be made on them. Price thinks the men who take up horses to cross the pass from Dyea will do well. They can get their provisions in easy that way and sell the horses for meat afterward.

A REPRESENTATIVE SCENE.

Here is a story fairly descriptive of the scenes on the Western coast:

"When the steamer Alki turned her nose northward today she carried more than 100 enthusiastic gold hunters bound for the Klondyke regions in Alaska.

"The piers were black with crowds of people, who cheered the departing friends lustily and wished them good luck. Many of those who managed to secure passage are making their last journey, for the climate of Alaska is no respecter of persons, and only the most rugged and healthy can hope to survive the rigors and hardships of the new camp.

"But even with the knowledge that they were going to almost certain death the fortune hunters made merry and mocked at those unable to crowd on the steamer.

"The majority of those starting today will make what is called the overland trip to Klondyke. From Juneau they go 100 miles further by water to Dyea then over the mountain passes, down Lakes Linderman and Bennett to the Yukon River, and from that river to the new discoveries.

RICHEST MINES IN THE WORLD.

"Thomas Moran, an old miner, who has just come from the Klondyke after a three years' sojourn, bringing with him $25,000 worth of gold dust, left this

morning for San Francisco. Before going he said that it was beyond the power of one's mind to realize the wealth that was being taken from Mother Earth. 'Pockets are being discovered,' he said, 'that contain large amounts of pure virgin gold."

Mr. Moran also gave the first account of what is known in the Klondyke as "Too Much Gold Creek." Only two white men have ever reached it, and they had to give up and turn back because they had no provisions. This creek of fabulous wealth is about 700 miles from the Klondyke and is known to Indians, who refuse to reveal its location. The Indians say there is too much gold for white men, meaning that if the secret is given out there will be another rush."

DESERTING ALASKAN TOWNS.

A telegram to Port Townsend, Wash., says:

"The excursion steamer Queen has arrived from Alaska with 170 passengers, principally tourists. The officers of the Queen state the merchants and tradesmen in both Juneau and Sitka are closing their stores and shops and hastening to the new Eldorado. Fifty business men left Juneau for Dawson City on July 12, and 150 would leave on the 16th, two days after the Queen sailed.

"The officers say that by the time the Queen returns to Juneau on her return trip, nine days hence, there will not be an able-bodied man left in town. Many men are leaving Juneau for the gold fields without provisions or means to buy them.

"The steamer Alki sailed for Alaska at midnight. She carries forty horses and 1,000 sheep for Dyea, where they will be landed and driven across the summit to the Yukon Valley. Stockmen say the sheep

are the finest band ever collected off Eastern Washington ranges. They will be taken to Circle City and Klondyke and slaughtered. Any kind of fresh meat there sells at 50 cents a pound.

OFF FOR THE KLONDYKE.

The new Golconda made men mad when the first news was brought in. In Seattle the craze was unbounded. Hear what authentic eye-witnesses say of it:

"Trembling with the gold hunting fever, flushed with stories of others' marvelous luck, old and young, sick and well, herded with sheep and horses on board the steamer Alki today, lest they should miss the first chance to go to the gold Golconda of the Klondyke district in Alaska.

"The rush to the new gold field where fortunes are being dug out every day began today. The stories of the returned miners, loaded with gold and tales of wealth still hidden in the earth, have started a fever among the residents of the Pacific states. The first boat to leave for Alaska was crowded and the fever has spread so much that San Francisco capitalists are planning to build a railroad from the mouth of the Yukon River to the heart of the gold district along the Klondyke River."

CRAZED BY LUST OF WEALTH.

"The steamer Portland arrived from Alaska yesterday bearing gold and more tales of the richness of the new find under the Polar star. Stories of the hard winter and rough conditions of existence in the Klondyke with eyes of chagrin and envy on the lucky ones as the fever from taking the first trip to the new Eldorado.

And Seattle was crowded today with people who had gone mad for wealth—those who had resolved to take passage in the steamer Alki and those who could not afford to pay for a ticket.

"The Alki started for Alaska this afternoon with 125 passengers, 800 sheep and 50 horses. Crazed with the gold fever and the hope of reaching Klondyke quickly, the passengers bade good-bye to thousands on shore who were crazed because they could not go. Food, comfort, sleep were ignored in the fierce desire to get to the gold fields. Those who could not go to Alaska stayed on the dock all day, shaking hands with those who were going and gazing with eyes of chagrin and envy on the lucky ones as the steamer started for the north.

"A rumor was circulated last night that the Alki would not be able to carry all the passengers who had bought tickets and that it would leave port during the night. Those who heard the rumor carried their outfit with them and spent the night on the dock in a fever of waiting lest the boat should go without them.

LOVE OF GOLD ALL-ABSORBING.

"Before dawn both the lucky ones with tickets and those who could not afford to go began to gather on the dock. Most of the passengers were wild-eyed and unkempt, as if they had spent a restless night and had been in too much of a hurry to wash themselves. They gazed with hungry eyes on the steamer, looked vainly for the gangplank, and hugged their outfits as if they were favorite children. All human passions and desires except fear seemed to be submerged in the all-absorbing lust for gold. The fear that shone in the eyes of the passengers was that of missing the boat and fabulous wealth.

"Where the gold hunters came from it was hard to tell. There were faces in the crowd unfamiliar to Seattle. The fever which has been raging here in the most virulent form during the last forty-eight hours has spread through every town and hamlet and these have sent their quota to the Klondyke.

"None of the passengers would leave the dock to get a meal. Some declared they had food with them, but they did not eat it. Others declared they surely would not be hungry until the steamer had left for the far north.

GRIM PATHOS IN THE SCENE.

"There was grim pathos in the scene on the dock while the goldhunters were waiting for permission to go on board. Some were taking passage who would surely never leave Alaska alive. They had heard stories of the returned miners that health was an absolute requisite in the terrible climate of the Klondyke district. They smiled and knew better.

"One man said he was suffering from lung trouble, but that he might as well die making a fortune as to remain on the shores of Puget Sound and die in poverty.

"Not an inch of room was left on the Alki. It was tested to its utmost capacity. Excited men, drunk with visions of fortunes, were huddled among the sheep, horses and baggage. Space was valuable, and a cattle pen had been constructed on the main deck, which had hitherto been reserved for passengers. The sheep were put on board only after the crowd had been driven back from the steamer. On the main deck the horses and sheep will stay until the journey by water is ended. When port is reached the pen will be reduced to its original state and the lumber put to new use.

"It was the intention that the steamer should leave at 9 o'clock this morning, but if the company had attempted to send it away at that time, the gold hunters, who still had their baggage and provisions to place aboard, would have used force to prevent it.

" 'When are you going?' the captain was asked.

" 'Whenever the men who have bought tickets will permit us,' was the answer.

KLONDYKE FEVER SPREADS FAR.

The Klondyke craze in New York is alarming conservative newspapers. The World warns adventurers against the possibilities of the arctic winter. Frederick Hobart of the Engineering and Mining Journal says that it would be foolish for any one to go to Klondyke this year, as they would not arrive in time to accomplish anything. Other mining and engineering experts give similar opinions and returned adventurers say that the Klondyke will kill more men than it enriches.

Even in Joplin, Mo., the Klondyke fever has found a lodgment and a company known as the Alaska Mining company has been formed, while twenty advance prospectors are to be sent to the gold country.

MINNEAPOLIS FEELS IT.

This is from a Minneapolis paper and shows the prevalent feeling:

"The three railroads running out of Minneapolis to the coast are sending parties to Alaska who will prospect for gold in the new fields.

"The excitement has been increased by the wonderful reports received during the the last few days, and the ticket offices are besieged daily with dozens of

people who inquire about rates, and state their intention of leaving Minneapolis for the gold fields.

"The cost of transportation from Minneapolis is $150, and this is too large an amount for many. Some are going so far as to dispose of their property interests here that they may have the necessary funds.

"The Great Northern received a report from L. S. McClennan and W. W. Cleveland, who left here last week, and they said they were offered a bonus of $40 for their tickets when they reached the coast, because of the rush for accommodations on steamship lines.

MILWAUKEEANS ARE GOING.

"Many people in this city have been inoculated with the Alaska gold virus, and about twenty men will go from here at once to the famed fields of the Klondyke. General Agent Young of the Great Northern road was flooded with inquiries today as to the cost of transportation and the quickest route to the frigid Eldorado.

"Many of those who came to the office said that they would leave immediately, and others said they would go within a few weeks. The agent of the Northern Pacific was also the recipient of many inquiries for transportation to the new gold fields. In nearly every case those inquiring are men who have had no experience in mining. The attack of the fever is considered acute for this conservative town, and Milwaukee can be counted on to furnish its quota of workers in the new gold fields.

GOLD THE MAGIC WORD.

"Gold," magic word, rings from one end of Chicago to the other—says a Chicago report.

Since the germs of the infection first reached here from the Pacific coast, the gold fever has been sweeping the city like a plague. Thousands and thousands in Chicago are in the worst stages, anxiously trying to plan immediate expeditions into the Klondyke regions. Thousands more in the country near Chicago are just as much excited.

It is not confined to the men alone. Women have caught the enthusiasm from husbands, fathers and brothers. Children, listening to the conversations of their elders, are ablaze with a desire to go themselves to the chilly north, imagining this alone is necessary to pick up wealth.

CHICAGO CATCHES THE INFECTION.

News of the remarkable gold discoveries has caused much excitement in Chicago, and since the first word of the richness of the fields was received hundreds have declared their intention of starting for the northern country. Women as well as men are interested and already have arranged their affairs so they can go to the new Eldorado. It is a great undertaking, and that this fact is well known is evidenced by the class of persons making up the intended emigrants. They realize there is little chance for a man without means, and nearly all who have signified their intention of seeking to wrest fortunes from the frozen earth in the far north intend taking along enough money to sustain life for a few months and to invest in machinery and claims.

At the office of the North American Transportation and Trading company a steady stream of callers is seen, all anxious to learn the cost of a trip to Alaska and other details of the proposed journey. Dangers

and peril of the trip are known, but, as in the days of the California fever, these do not deter, and brave men and women are ready to risk all on the chance of acquiring the hidden wealth.

MANY SEEK INFORMATION.

Hundreds of men are daily visiting the headquarters of the North American Transportation and Trading Company in the Old Colony building, anxiously seeking information about the Klondyke gold fields. O. M. Schantz, agent of the company, has been busy answering questions from the men with the gold fever. Since Tuesday over 1,000 men have called on him.

Each man wants to know how to reach the field, what to take and the cost. Yesterday a man called and said he had $200 and was going to the gold fields. Mr. Schantz advised him not to go and refused to sell him a ticket.

"No man should go to Alaska unless he is in good health, has $1,000 in his pocket and is not afraid of work. There is gold in Alaska, but it is hard to reach," said Mr. Schantz.

Old men and people who are not strong have no business hunting for gold, he says.

It is an odd throng that calls on the transportation agent. Each visitor has the "gold look" and displays every sign of being nervous. Each man wants to know the quickest time he can make. Some say they want to start at once, but they are advised to think the matter over.

OVERLAND ROUTE ADVISED.

In view of the fact that winter will probably overtake those who go by the boat of Aug. 20, the trans-

portation company's officials are advising applicants to take the overland route.

At the offices of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company and other railroad companies there was a steady stream of information seekers, the same as at the office of the North American Transportation and Trading Company.

F. K. Gustin, a lawyer of some standing, is preparing to send a party to Alaska and carry on a large grub-staking business. Agents will be sent to the gold country as soon as possible prepared to furnish money and supplies to grub-stake as many men as care to go.

Mr. Gustin is treasurer of the Alaska Gold Mining and Trading Company, which has not been incorporated, the capital stock of which is to be $1,000,000. Last April, an agent, L. P. Light, was sent to the fields.

SPECULATORS IN CLOVER.

The Klondyke craze has struck the speculative element hard. Companies of all kinds are being organized, while the signs and window-letterings are appearing with marvelous rapidity in the principal business streets.

Such titles as "Yukon Trading and Development Company," "The Yukon Gold and Supply Company" and the "Klondyke Improvement Company" are to be seen on every hand.

The first mining company to file articles of incorporation is the Alaska and Yukon Gold Exploration and Trading Company, limited. The capital stock is $200,000, fully subscribed.

LONDON SPECULATORS EXCITED.

Sir Donald Alexander Smith, the Canadian

high commissioner in London, has been besieged by people who desire to go to the Yukon mining districts. Most of the applicants for information are young men without money, who are employed on farms and in the factories. Would-be emigrants of this class are urged to remain at home, but hardy men, with a capital of 100 pounds or more, are encouraged to leave for the gold fields. Several solid London capitalists are interesting themselves in the mining territory and are making investigations with a view of organizing mining companies. Experts have been dispatched to inspect the region.

Sir Donald has issued a pamphlet containing much information concerning the new gold fields. Regarding the suggested exclusion of Americans from the Yukon region officials here say there is nothing in the treaties between England and the United States to prevent such action on the part of the British government, but as a matter of policy it is unlikely the step will be taken.

Various steamship companies report that few persons have left England for the new gold fields thus far. This is probably due to monetary considerations.

GOLD FEVER REACHES NEW YORK.

The Klondyke gold fever has reached New York. At all the ticket agencies and railroad offices inquiries are being made about rates.

The first party will soon leave the city, consisting of William H. Edwards, a young lawyer in Mr. Curtis' office, a son of "Billy" Edwards of the Hoffman House; John W. Edwards, a Brooklyn pharmacist, son of the chief engineer of the Erie basin dry docks;

Dr. James W. Bristol of Brooklyn and Charles Edelman, a civil and mining engineer of this city.

In addition to scientific and gastronomical supplies furnished pro rata, each man will put $1,250 into a common fund. Every detail has been carefully arranged, and all that remains to be done is to engage passage on the Pacific coast steamship Queen, which will sail from San Francisco on Aug. 7. This will be attended to by former Judge Curtis, who is in the west on legal business. All supplies will be purchased at San Francisco, and the party will leave the Queen at Juneau and go overland to the Klondyke district.

W. B. Fasig, a horseman of Cleveland, well known in this city, is authority for the statement that he and a number of New Yorkers have chartered a steamer and are arranging an expedition which will sail for Alaska in September.

A CANADIAN REPORT.

A blue book has just been issued by the Department of the Interior of Canada, which contains some very interesting facts in relation to the gold-bearing regions of the Yukon. The book is especially interesting at this time, as it completely corroborates the stories of marvelous finds of gold dust in that section.

According to the reports of the Department of the Interior, the major portion of the gold-producing soil is in Canadian territory, though the boundary line between Alaska and the British possessions is still a subject of dispute between the United States and Great Britain. The present rich discoveries will probably lead to an early settlement of this boundary uncertainty, or, at least, the attempted settlement, for where gold fields are at issue boundary questions, as experience has shown, are not so easily adjusted.

MARVELOUS RESULTS.

The extracts given in the blue book are from the reports of Mr. William Ogilvie, D. L. S., who was sent out by the Dominion government specially to investigate the Yukon district. These extracts record some marvelously large results on some of the claims, and would seem to establish the fact of the Yukon being the richest gold-bearing region on the continent, not excepting California in its palmiest gold days or the Kootenai of to-day.

The lack of transportation facilities is the one great present drawback which prevents all those owning claims from becoming instant millionaires. The long haul makes the importation of mining machinery almost an impossibility, and even food provisions can with difficulty be transported, while the cost of the latter becomes enormously high. As much as $100 and even $150 is said to have been frequently paid for a single sack of flour. Once let there be built a railroad from some point on the coast to the Klondyke river, where the rich finds have been made, and wealth, as if by the magic touch of a magician's wand, will, if these reports are to be believed, be the lot of the fortunate ones who have been the first to stake out their claims.

In this connection it is interesting to note that two companies are now petitioning the Dominion government for power to open up the new country.

The blue book extracts cover different periods between September 4, 1895, and January 23, 1897. After describing in detail the several claims, Mr. Ogilvie says:

SUPERB PANNING.

"It is beyond doubt that a considerable number of

pans of the dirt on different claims have turned out over $200 worth of gold, while those which run from $10 to $50 have been very numerous. In the line of these finds further south are the Cassiar gold fields, in British Columbia, so the presumption is that we have in our territory along the easterly watershed of the Yukon a gold-bearing belt of indefinite width and upward of 300 miles long, exclusive of the British Columbia part of it."

Gold is not the only mineral wealth of the Yukon, it appears. Mr. Ogilvie states that copper has been found on the Ton-dac creek, above Fort Reliance, and several small veins have been found in the vicinity. With better facilities it may become, he says, a valuable feature of the country. A small seam of asbestos was also found a short distance from Fort Cudahy, and as there is quite an area of serpentine in that neighborhood, asbestos of commercial value may yet be found.

COAL PROSPECTS.

Still another valuable feature is the coal fields which the district possesses. On Coal creek, about seven miles up, overlying a coarse sandstone and under drift clay and gravel, a seam of 12 feet 6 inches has been discovered. It is certain that coal extends along the valley of the Yukon from Coal creek, ten or twelve miles down, and from Coal creek up to Twelve-Mile creek, which flows into the Yukon about thirty miles above Fort Cudahy. Coal is also found in the upper part of Klondyke and on other creeks.

GREAT RUSH TO TAKE CLAIMS.

A great scramble is taking place just now to secure claims along the Klondyke river, the glittering reports

from that region having resulted in other creeks around having been practically abandoned, especially those at the head of Forty-Mile river, in American territory. Men cannot be got to work for love or money, Mr. Ogilvie says, and development is consequently slow. The wages paid the few men who have to work for hire are $1.50 an hour and work as many hours as they like. Some of the claims are so rich that every night a few pans of dirt suffice to pay the hired help.

The following extracts taken from Mr. Ogilvie's report as published by the Department of the Interior will afford some valuable information as to particular finds:

Gold-bearing quartz, the report states, has been found in Cone hill, which stands midway in the valley of the Forty-Mile river, a couple of miles above the junction with the Yukon. The quantity in sight surpasses that of the famous Treadwell mine on the coast and the quality is better. Were it on the coast the Treadwell would be diminutive beside it.

Not far from Cone hill a ledge had been found last spring on the Chindindu river (known in the district as the Twelve-Mile creek) by an American expert prospecting for the North American Transportation and Trading company, which the expert said he had never read of or seen anything like in the world. He had spent years of his life in the best mining districts of the United States, and he assured Mr. Ogilvie that this section of country promised better than any he ever saw before, and he was going to spend the rest of his life there.

WORKINGS ARE UNUSUALLY RICH.

Placer mining is being carried on in Bonanza creek,

an affluent of the Klondyke, and the workings must be exceptionally rich, for three men worked out $75 in four hours, and a $12 nugget has also been found, showing that there is coarse gold, and plenty of it. It is claimed that from $100 to $500 a day can be made off the ground that has been prospected.

A white man named J. W. Carmach, who had worked for Mr. Ogilvie, in 1887, was the first to locate a claim on this creek. As he was very short of appliances, he could put together only a rather defective apparatus with which to wash the gravel. He had to carry the gravel in a box on his back for a distance of from thirty to 100 feet; but, notwithstanding this, he and two others, working very irregularly, washed out $1,200 in eight days; and he asserts that, if he had had proper facilities, it could have been done in two days.

On the same creek two men rocked out $75 in about four hours, and it is asserted that two other men took out $4,008 in two days with only two lengths of sluice boxes.

"It is certain," is Mr. Ogilvie's comment, "that millions will be taken out of this district this year. Enough prospecting has been done to show that there is at least fifteen miles of this extraordinary richness, and the indications are that there will be three or four times that extent—if not all equal to the above, at least very rich."

VALUABLE CLAIMS.

Glacier and Miller creeks, which had been generally supposed to be in Alaska, have been found to be in Canada for some distance. They are tributaries of Sixty-Mile river and are rich creeks. Both are fully

START OF RAFT ON LAKE LINDEMAN.

OPENING UP OF A CLAIM.

located and worked, each claim being 500 feet along the creek and the width of the valley or creek bed.

On Miller creek it was estimated that one particular claim would yield about $100,000 during the season, which would net the owner between $50,000 and $60,000. There are many other creeks in this vicinity yet to be prospected. Gold is found all along the valley of Sixty-Mile river, and under more favorable conditions, both mercantile and climatic, it would yield splendid results to large enterprises. On Gold Bottom creek and branches there are from 200 to 300 claims.

As an illustration of the rush that was made into the district when its richness in gold was established, it is mentioned that the country adjacent to Forty-Mile river was almost deserted. Men who had been in a chronic state of drunkenness for weeks were pitched into boats as ballast and taken up to stake themselves a claim, and claims were even staked by their friends for men who were not even in the country at the time.

Old Book S

CHAPTER III.

DISCOVERY AND LOCATION OF KLONDYKE.

An Early Discoverer—Hoist the Stars and Stripes—Prepare to Rough it—Where to Get the Gold—Existence of Placers—Wealth of Cook's Inlet—The Search for Mineral—Working the Gravel—Climatic Difficulties—Forsaken by Wild Animals—Wealth of Alaska—Big Output for 1897—First Great Gold Craze—The First Claim Located—Placer Mining Laws—A Comparison—An Expert's Opinion—Gold Galore—To Thaw the Ground—Dirt Piled on a Dump—Peculiarity of Yukon Mines—Size of a Claim—A Chicagoan's Observations—Gold From the River's Bed.

"What makes my blood run faster in my veins is to think that I have walked all over that gold and that now others are digging it. It prevents me from sleeping at night."

The speaker was Francois Mercier, a resident of Montreal, who can claim the honor of having been one of the first band of hardy pioneers who raised the American flag over the now celebrated gold fields of Alaska, and who spent seventeen winters in that desolate country. Mr. Mercier is a native of St. Paul l'Ermite, near l'Assompton, and is now 60 years old, but he is going back. Mr. Mercier left the province of Quebec to visit the vast and then desert plains of

BONANZA CREEK VALLEY.

Montana, where he pursued the chase of the buffalo during some five years, in the employ of the celebrated Chouteau company of St. Louis, Mo. Afterward he returned to the province of Quebec, but the taste for travel was too strong for him, and in 1863 he again started for the great west. This time he settled in San Francisco as a carriage-maker. Just about that time the United States purchased Alaska from Russia and the attention of the inhabitants of the Pacific coast was called to the northern territory. Immediately a trading company was organized to take advantage of the resources which the chase was known to offer in that region. This was known as the Pioneer Company, and among those who enlisted in the enterprise were Mr. Mercier and his brother, Moise, as well as Michael Laberge, Napoleon Robert of St. Cesaire, Que., now dead, and Ephraim Gravel of St. Martin, now living at Los Angeles, Cal.

STARS AND STRIPES.

On June 21, 1868, the party arrived at St. Michael, and there hoisted the first American flag that ever floated over the United States arctic territory. That very year Mr. Mercier and his party started for the upper Yukon and founded the fort of Vuklakoyet, sometimes called Mercier's station, 300 miles further up than any Russian post.

Changes followed, and Mr. Mercier became general agent for the Alaska Commercial Company in 1872. In this capacity he explored many of the rivers of Alaska and in 1873 he laid out the site for Fort Reliance, which is about six miles from the mouth of Klondyke creek. On this occasion he ascended the river with the first steamer that navigated it. He says:

"From what I read and know of the country I can see that what I read is mainly true. As to the chances for working the mines I can say that the navigation on the Yukon is generally open from the middle of June to the middle of October, which means over three months of the year for work on the placers. Now, if you keep in mind that during these months the sun disappears below the horizon only for a short time each day, that means really six months for work. At midnight in summer it is light enough to write a letter outside. For years I kept a record for the Washington weather bureau, and in summer we have had heat of 90 degrees, while in winter I have known the thermometer to fall to 68 degrees below zero. The first winter we were there the thermometer rapidly fell to the last notch and stood there. It was frozen. We brought it inside the house, where it often indicated zero. However, with proper clothing, I prefer the winter to the summer weather. In the warm season the flies are a pest from which it is very hard for one to protect himself. But in winter the air is dry and still, and with the fur costume worn by the Esquimaux one need not suffer. In fact, I do not recall many accidents due to the cold.

"As to the food, there is plenty of fish and game, and when the population was sparse it could be bought very cheap from the Indians. The king salmon, weighing from sixty to eighty pounds, could be bought in my time from the Indians for a couple of leaves of tobacco. The company's stores were always well stocked with provisions."

PREPARE TO ROUGH IT.

Another Montrealer who has traveled through

Alaska in the recent years and who would now like to be there is J. B. Miron, now living on Quesnel street. Mr. Miron was a miner in Alaska from 1891 to 1895, and he went back to San Francisco with some $14,000, which he took out of a 500-foot claim in fifty days. During the years which preceded this find, however, he had many rough experiences, and he advises any one who is afraid of hard times not to go out there. He himself still wishes he was back in the gold fields.

"Out of every 1,000 prospectors who go to Alaska," he says, "500 come back broke. It is a dreary occupation to wander over the country through the diminutive forests and volcanic mountains, and one must have pluck to stick."

WHERE TO GET THE GOLD.

Gold is usually obtained, in this and other countries, either in thin veins or in placers. In one case the precious metal still remains locked in the crevices of the rock into which, while in a molten state, it has been forced upward from below in ages past. In the other the action of the weather has crumbled the inclosing walls and liberated the treasure, which becomes mixed with other detritus in the beds of streams. There it is found in more or less rounded particles varying in size from the merest dust to nuggets weighing half an ounce or an ounce. The latter limit is sometimes exceeded.

When "pay dirt" has been discovered the separation of the gold from the sand and gravel is easily effected by washing, if there is a good supply of water. Costly hydraulic works have been constructed in California and elsewhere for the double purpose of supplying water jets to eat away the gravel banks and to extract

the precious metal when once it has been loosened from its environment. On the other hand, the dirt is often cleaned up with the aid of a pan that can be manipulated by the miner himself. As gold is heavier than gravel, it settles toward the bottom of any bar or bank in which it has accumulated. The richest part of any deposit of this character, therefore, is likely to be found down near the bed rock.

EXISTENCE OF PLACERS.

Placers exist along the slope of the great mountain ranges of western North America all the way from Central Mexico to Alaska. Some of them have yielded millions of dollars; in others there is hardly enough gold to pay for working them. Those which have attracted attention in the extreme northwestern part of the continent may be briefly described. Every schoolboy remembers that the territory which Mr. Seward bought from Russia and annexed to the United States during the civil war consists essentially of a big square track lying between the sixtieth and seventieth parallels of north latitude, with a peninsula and chain of islands reaching away to the southwest, and a still narrower strip of land reaching down southeastward, past British Columbia, to the fifty-fifth parallel of latitude. Almost without exception the important deposits of gold in Alaska, so far as known, are to be found in this last-named strip or in the adjacent islands. Juneau, on the mainland, and Douglas Island, close by, are the most famous centers of production. The gold is found here, however, in veins, not in placers. On Kodiak Island, much further to the northwest, but still on the south shore of Alaska, faint indications of gold in veins were found about thirty years ago, but there was not enough to pay for working the ore.

WEALTH OF COOK'S INLET.

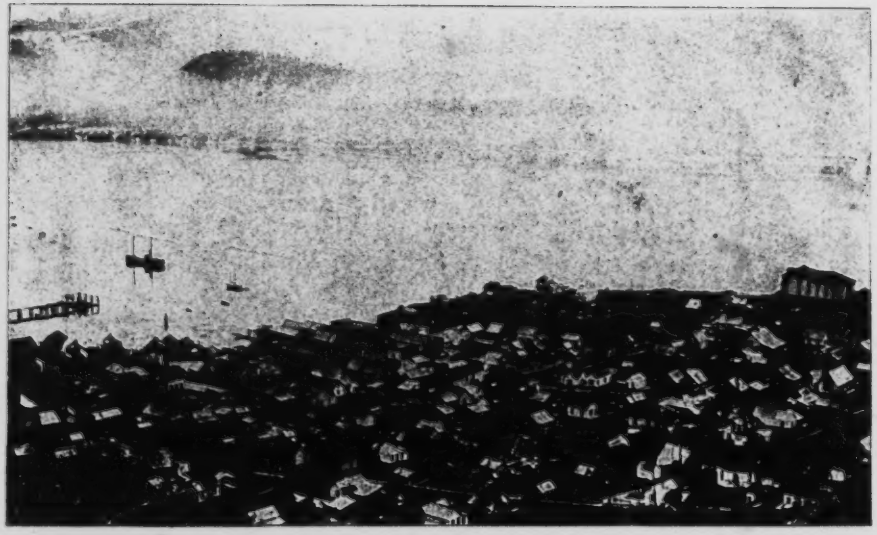
The first placers to be worked in Alaska, probably, were situated near the head of Cook's Island. The richest deposits were along the Six-Mile Creek and Resurrection Creek, and yielded from $3 to $10 a day a man for a time. These mines and the ones further south, with a few of less consequence, have raised the annual output of gold in Alaska from $15,000 in 1881 to more than $1,000,000 at the present time.

Both veins and placers were found, in British territory, along a small river called the Stickine, which reaches the Pacific by crossing the extreme southeastern tip of Alaska. In the southern part of British Columbia, along the Fraser and Columbia Rivers, productive placers have also been worked.

THE SEARCH FOR MINERAL.

In hunting for gold, prospectors dig a hole down to bed rock, which is generally found at a depth of from fifteen to eighteen feet. The first twelve feet or so of earth is non-auriferous. Under it lies a stratum of coarse gravel three feet or more in thickness which is rich in the precious metal, most of it being in the shape of small nuggets or grains. It is called "dust," but it is much coarser than the dust found in other parts of the world. Some of it is so large that a big percentage can be picked out by hand as the gravel is brought up out of the hole, but the general practice is to sluice or pan wash it.

The feeble suns of the short summer do not thaw out the frozen ground to its full depth, and it has to be softened by building huge fires, which are kept going night and day until the earth is in such shape that the miners can force their way through it with



JUNEAU, BIRD'S-EYE VIEW.

BUILDING THE WHITE HORSE.

picks. This done, a number of holes are dug on each claim, but even then when the gold gravel is taken out it is in frozen chunks resembling small masses of concrete. By making these holes in the summer the miners are enabled to work underground a portion of the winter and thus prepare for an early wash-up when the spring thaw comes in June. To take advantage of this the gravel which has been dug out during the winter has to be again softened with fire before it can be put through the sluices or pans and the gold separated.

WORKING THE GRAVEL.

The gravel is packed in a kind of clay that, when frozen, makes a conglomeration like concrete, through which the strongest man cannot force a pick. When this gravel is thawed it is broken up with picks and thrown in a big heap with shovels. It varies in depth from fourteen to twenty feet, and it is richest in gold close to the bed-rock. One never finds gravel so filled with coarse gold. The miners have only the rudest apparatus yet. They use a short sluice with riffles arranged every few inches. The gold is so coarse that they save about 90 per cent without any quicksilver. Many men simply use the pan and rocker. What is needed is a device for the rapid softening of this gravel.

CLIMATIC DIFFICULTIES.

There are but few sane men who would deliberately set out to make an arctic trip in the fall of the year, and yet this is exactly what those who now start for Klondyke are doing. Experienced arctic voyagers, the hardy men who have conducted exploring expeditions in the frozen north, invariably begin operations in the early spring, aiming to get within the arctic

circle about the time summer opens and the extreme rigors of cold are somewhat abated.

In no other way can they hope to accomplish anything of value. Going to the Klondyke is to all practical purposes making a trip into the arctic circle. Klondyke is the name given to a stream which empties into the Yukon from the British side of the imaginary line which at the 141st meridian divides Alaska from the possessions of Great Britain. For eight months in the year the entire country is held tight in the grip of icy winter, the temperature ranging from 70 degrees to 90 degrees below zero. Last winter the maximum of cold was 70 degrees below, and the old-timers refer to it as an unusually mild season. The ground freezes solid to a depth of fifteen or twenty feet, rivers and creeks are clasped in unbreakable bonds of ice, while on every side great fields of snow cover the ground.

FORSAKEN BY WILD ANIMALS.

It is a bleak, barren, mountainous land, deserted even by wild animals of all kinds save when a hungry polar bear, attracted by the smell of human habitation, makes an occasional predatory incursion in search of an Indian or a white prospector for dinner. Winter begins about the middle of September and lasts until late in May. In all these eight months the only sources of food supplies are the salmon in the ice-bound rivers and the stocks of the trading companies' stores. To get the first requires dangerous exposure in the extreme cold; possession of the latter can be had only on a cash basis, and even with plenty of money or gold dust it is sometimes difficult to get enough to eat, as the storekeepers have to deal out

provisions sparingly to guard against a shortage before the new supplies arrive in the spring.

It is in the four months of so-called summer, a season of melting snows, floods, and mud, that the denizens of northern Alaska do their work—so far as it consists of labor on the surface of the ground.

WEALTH OF ALASKA.

It is well in considering the wealth of the yellow metal in Alaska to take into account a few figures uninfluenced by the present excitement Perhaps none more reliable are to be had than those furnished by the Alaska Mining Record, in its summary of the business of last year. The following extract shows the output:

"The output of the mines of Alaska is difficult of estimation. The vastness of the mining territory, the extremely migratory characteristic of its population and the entire absence of reports and statistics from a great part of the smaller camps render it difficult to arrive at a statement approximating correctness except by careful study and watchful attention to every detail. The following estimate is the result of just such work, and is believed to be as nearly correct as is possible, and will represent, fully yet conservatively, the production of gold in Alaska during 1896:

Total output of quartz mines	$2,355,000
Lituya Bay placer mines	15,000
Cook Inlet placer mines	175,000
Birch Creek district, Yukon mines	1,300,000
Other Yukon districts	800,000
From several small creeks in various parts of the territory worked by arrastras	25,000
Total output	$4,670,000

BIG OUTPUT FOR 1897.

"This is an increase over 1895 of $1,670,000. At the same time the number of new discoveries which promise well has been great. These will be more or less productive during the next year, and a corresponding increase is assured. Two new mills of ten stamps each have been erected during the past year, and sixty-five stamps have been added to mills already operating, bringing the number of stamps now dropping in Alaska to 549, of which all but ninety-four are in continuous operation, these latter being closed down by climatic severities during the winter season. As development is carried forward, however, steps are taken to overcome this, and it is but a question of a short time when all our mines will run regardless of climate or season. It is quite likely that during the coming summer no less than 250 stamps will be added to the present number."

FIRST GREAT GOLD CRAZE.

The first great gold craze over this region occurred in 1858. The Kootenai region, in the extreme southeastern corner of the province, was famous a few years ago. The Cariboo district, lying on the fifty-third parallel of latitude, has proved the most steady and continuous producer. Still further north, along the Peace River (which flows eastward and discharges into Athabasca Lake), placers have been worked for several years. Most of the old placers of British Columbia have been worked out, however. There was a period, along in the sixties, when the annual production of that province considerably exceeded $2,000,000; and in 1864 it rose to $3,735,850. By 1890 it had dwindled

away to less than half a million, owing, it has been asserted, to the exhaustion of the known deposits.

THE FIRST CLAIM LOCATED.

The rich placer mines of gold were first discovered on the branches of the Klondyke. The discovery was due to the reports of Indians. Mr. Ogilvie in a letter dated November 6, 1896, says:—"A white man named J. W. Carmach, who worked with me in 1887, was the first to take advantage of the rumors and locate a claim on the first branch, which was named by the miners Bonanza Creek. Carmach located late in August, but had to cut some logs for the mill here to get a few pounds of provisions to enable him to begin work on his claim. The fishing of Klondyke having totally failed him, he returned with a few weeks' provisions for himself, his wife and brother-in-law (Indians) and another Indian in the last days of August, and immediately set about working his claim. As he was very short of appliances he could only put together a rather defective apparatus to wash the gravel with. The gravel itself he had to carry in a box on his back from 30 to 100 feet. Notwithstanding this the three men, working very irregularly, washed out $1,200 in eight days, and Carmach asserts with reason that had he had proper facilities it could have been done in two days, besides having several hundred dollars more gold which was lost in the tailings through defective apparatus.

"On the same creek two men rocked out $75 in about four hours, and it is asserted that two men in the same creek took out $4,008 in two days with only two lengths of sluice boxes. This last is doubted, but Mr. Leduc assures me he weighed that much gold for

them, but is not positive where they got it. They were new-comers and had not done much in the country, so the probabilities are they got it on Bonanza Creek. A branch of Bonanza named Eldorado has prospected magnificently, and another branch named Tilly Creek has prospected well; in all there are some four or five branches to Bonanza which have given good prospects. There are about 170 claims staked on the main creek, and the branches are good for about as many more, aggregating say 350 claims, which will require over 1,000 men to work properly."

PLACER MINING LAW.

The term "placer claim," as defined by the Supreme Court of the United States is: "Ground within defined boundaries which contains mineral in its earth, sand or gravel; ground that includes valuable deposits not in place, that is, not fixed in rock, but which are in a loose state, and may in most cases be collected by washing or amalgamation without milling."

The manner of locating placer mining claims differs from that of locating claims upon veins or lodes. In locating a vein or lode claim, the United States statutes provide that no claim shall extend more than 300 feet on each side of the middle of the vein of the surface, and that no claim shall be limited by mining regulations to less than 25 feet on each side of the middle of the vein at the surface. In locating claims called "placers," however, the law provides that no location of such claim upon surveyed lands shall include more than twenty acres for each individual claimant. The Supreme Court, however, has held that one individual can hold as many locations as he can purchase and rely upon his possessory title; that a separate patent for each location is unnecessary.

Locaters, however, have to show proof of citizenship or intention to become citizens. This may be done in the case of an individual by his own affidavit; in the case of an association incorporated by a number of individuals by the affidavit of their authorized agent, made on his own knowledge or upon information and belief; and in the case of a company organized under the laws of any state or territory, by the filing of a certified copy of the charter or certificate of incorporation.

A patent for any land claimed and located may be obtained in the following manner: "Any person, association or corporation authorized to locate a claim, having claimed and located a piece of land, and who has or have complied with the terms of the law, may file in the proper land office an application for a patent under oath, showing such compliance, together with a plat and field notes of the claim or claims in common made by or under the direction of the United States surveyor general, showing accurately the boundaries of the claim or claims, which shall be distinctly marked by monuments on the ground, and shall post a copy of such plat, together with a notice of such application for a patent, in a conspicuous place on the land embraced in such plat, previous to the application for a patent on such plat; and shall file an affidavit of at least two persons that such notice has been duly posted, and shall file a copy of the notice in such land office; and shall thereupon be entitled to a patent to the land in the manner following: The registrar of said land office upon the filing of such application, plat, field notes and affidavits, shall publish a notice that such application has been made, for a period of sixty days, in a newspaper to be by

him designated, as published nearest to such claim; and he shall post such notice in his office for the same period. The claimant at the time of filing such application or at any time thereafter, within sixty days of publication, shall file with the registrar a certificate of the United States surveyor general that $500 worth of labor has been expended or improvements made upon the claim by himself or grantors; that the plat is correct, with such further description by reference to natural objects or permanent monuments as shall identify the claim and furnish an accurate description to be incorporated in the patent. At the expiration of the sixty days of publication, the claimant shall file his affidavit showing that the plat and notice have been posted in a conspicuous place on the claim during such period of publication."

If no adverse claim shall have been filed with the registrar of the land office at the expiration of said sixty days, the claimant is entitled to a patent upon the payment to the proper officer of $5 per acre in the case of a lode claim, and $2.50 per acre for a placer.

The location of a placer claim and keeping possession thereof until a patent shall be issued are subject to local laws and customs.

A COMPARISON.

There are serious drawbacks to the northern Eldorado aside from the bitterness of its long, icy winters. One is the scarcity of natural food products. Nothing can be grown there; everything for all time to come must be imported at a high cost. Another handicap is the lack of woman's society. In the rush to California in '49 men took their wives and sweethearts with them in many instances, and as the cli-

WOODING STATION, LOWER RIVER.

GROUP OF 40-MILE MINERS.

mate and agricultural conditions were good, it was not long before permanent settlements were made and the nucleus of what is now a great state was started. In Alaska, aside from one or two daring tourists, no white women of refinement have been seen, and few will care to brave the hardships of life there. The miners' sole companions are greasy, blubber-eating Indians, and the more intelligent dogs, which serve as beasts of burden. But there is gold there, and day and night, in all parts of civilized America, there goes up the cry of "Klondyke or bust."

AN EXPERT'S OPINION.

Dr. William H. Dall, one of the curators of the National Museum, is familiar with the region of country in which the Klondyke gold fields are located through having been on several geological expeditions to the region in Alaska adjoining the gold district, and says that in his opinion the reports from there probably are not exaggerated. He said:

"The gold-bearing belt of northwestern America contains all the gold fields extending into British Columbia, what is known as the Northwestern Territory and Alaska. The Yukon really runs along in that belt for 500 or 600 miles. The bed of the main river is in the lowlands of the valley.

"The yellow metal is not found in paying quantities in the main river, but in the small streams which cut through the mountains of either side. These practically wash up the gold. The mud and mineral matter is carried into the main river, while the gold is left on the rough bottoms of these side streams. In most cases the gold lies at the bottom of thick gravel deposits. The gold is covered by frozen gravel in

the winter. During the summer, until the snow is all melted, the surface is covered by muddy torrents. When the snow is all melted and the springs begin to freeze, the streams dry up. At the approach of winter, in order to get at the gold, the miners find it necessary to dig into the gravel formation. Formerly they stripped the gravel off until they came to the gold. Now they sink a shaft to the bottom of the gravel and tunnel along underneath, in the gold-bearing layer.

"The way in which this is done is interesting, as it has to be carried on in cold weather, when everything is frozen. The miners build fires over the area of which they wish to work and keep them lighted over that territory for the space of about twenty-four hours. Then, at the expiration of this period, the gravel will be melted and softened to a depth of perhaps six inches. This is then taken off and other fires built, until the gold-bearing layer is reached. When the shaft is down that far fires are built at the bottom, against the sides of the layer, and tunnels made in this manner. Blasting would do no good, on account of the hard nature of the material, and would blow out just as out of a gun. The matter taken out containing the gold is piled up until spring, when the torrents come down, and is panned and cradled by these. It is certainly very hard labor."

GOLD GALORE.

"All the streams in the northwest territory," says a returned Missouri miner, "seem to bear gold, the yellow nuggets having been found 650 miles below Dawson City, in New creek. There are really no mines in the Klondyke region," he continued. "The

general public seems to have conceived the impression that we are taking quartz out of the ground.

"The fact is that there is nothing but placer mining in this field, and it is a very peculiar system of mining in vogue, too. The ground up there, you know, freezes so deep and so hard that it never thaws out.

"The gulches are all overlaid with a muck or moss, which is really glacier mud. When this is thawed out, it is two-thirds water and one-third sediment. This, of course, can't be thawed with fire satisfactorily. It must be blasted or picked off. We made some experiments with powder, and found that method very successful, but had not enough powder to do anything extensive.

TO THAW THE GROUND.

"After this murky top layer is cleaned off, the method is to build a huge fire, probably two feet wide and six or eight feet long. After this has burned six or eight hours the ground beneath it is thawed sufficiently so that five or six inches of dirt can be taken out. This operation is repeated, and it is found that the deeper one goes the more readily the ground thaws.

"The shafts are sunk until bedrock is reached. That is the bottom of the deposit, and on Bonanza creek it is encountered at a depth of all the way from three to twenty feet. The pay streak is often 150 feet wide, and when bedrock is reached what is technically called 'burning a breast' is resorted to. That, in plain English, consists in running a tunnel on a level through the pay streak.

"The ground is much more easily thawed in these

tunnels, and it not infrequently happens that one burning thaws out fifteen feet.

"There is plenty of wood in the Klondyke region, so little difficulty has been experienced on that score. The farthest I had to go for timber was three-fourths of a mile, while some of the more lucky claim owners have secured all they wanted within half that distance.

DIRT PILED ON A DUMP.

"The dirt, as fast as it is thawed out, is hauled to the surface and piled up on the dump. Most of the sluicing is done in August, our warmest month. When I left Dawson City there were many million panfuls on the various dumps along Bonanza Creek alone. Some of these huge piles of precious dirt have probably been cleaned up since I left, and that is what has probably made the reports that are now filling the newspapers of rich strikes.

"A panful of dirt is the standard of measure in placer mining camps. This is equivalent to about two shovelfuls the size of a California shovel, and a panful of Bonanza Creek dirt will generally average about an ounce of gold, worth $17, but I have seen it run as high as $800. The gold is not in the shape of nuggets. A nugget in mining parlance is a pretty good-sized piece of gold, whereas most of the yellow metal found on the Klondyke is about the size of a grain of wheat."

PECULIARITY OF YUKON MINES.

The mines of the Yukon are of a class by themselves, and it is necessary to follow new methods for getting the gold. To begin with, the ground is frozen. From the roots of the moss, which often is

more than a foot thick, to the greatest depth that ever has been reached, the ground is as hard as a bone. The gold is found in a certain drift of gravel, which lies at varying depths, often as far down as twenty feet. Only that portion of the gravel just above hard pan—by which is usually meant clay—carries gold in any quantity, and in favored localities this particular gravel is extraordinarily rich. In fact, there is more free gold found within the same space, taking the whole district through, than ever was found anywhere in placers. Toward the heads of the creeks, and likewise toward the original source of the mineral, this gravel is found nearer the surface than at places further down the streams. It is also coarser gold, but, on the other hand, it covers a narrower strip of the valley. Going down the creeks, the deposit is spread out over a much wider area, and is deeper in the ground. The gold is in smaller particles, but the quantity may be as great as anywhere. As in nearly all placer mines, the low places of what has formerly been the bed of the creek are the richest, the deposits decreasing in quantity toward the outer edges.

SIZE OF A CLAIM.

The size of a claim is fixed by agreement among the miners of any particular locality. It is a section of the creek of a certain length—sometimes 200 feet—and it extends from rim to rim in width. The reason of this variableness in the size of claims on the different creeks is that on some a greater length is required to make them worth a man's while to work them. The paying deposits may be scattered so a man could make wages only by working here

and there over a large territory. Of course, the conditions surrounding the first discovery made on a creek are the basis for fixing the size of a claim on that stream. The discoverer of a new field is allowed two claims, while others are permitted to take but one at a time. However, when a locater has worked out his assessment of a few days' work he is at liberty to take another. When a sufficient number of men arrive on a new creek to make it impracticable to work together in harmony without organization, they hold a meeting and elect one of their number as register or clerk, and thereafter a record is made of all locations and all transfers, for which a small fee is charged.

A CHICAGOAN'S OBSERVATIONS.

Most enthusiastic about the Klondyke gold field and its possibilities is John W. Gates, president of the Illinois Steel Company, who arrived at Chicago from the northwest recently. He brought with him as souvenirs of his trip gold in the shape of a brick, bar, dust, and nuggets aggregating over $1,000 in value. The brick, which is of pure gold, is valued at $750, while the bar is estimated at $76. The dust, showing the gold as taken from the Klondyke region, will sell for $110, and the nuggets, all of which but one Mr. Gates has given to friends for scarf pins, are valued at from $10 to $15 apiece. The one he retained as an exhibition souvenir.

Mr. Gates has been in the northwest for the last month. He went out in his private car over the Northern Pacific road, and at Ashcroft left the road and traveled by stage to Barkerville, 300 miles north. From the latter town he rode on horseback over the mountains forty miles.

GOLD FROM THE RIVER'S BED.

In this country he saw mines from which $75,000,000 has been taken in the last thirty years, and he says the mines are not exhausted. He learned of the experiment that is being made in the Frazier river, in that locality, to use centrifugal pumps on barges to pump up the earth along the bottom of the river and wash out the gold that has been deposited there for ages. The nozzles of these pumps, which are screened to prevent big bowlders from being taken in, are forced to the bottom of the river, and as the sand and water reach the top of the barge they are carefully screened, so that all the gold is secured. If the experiment proves a success, Mr. Gates says it will revolutionize placer mining and prove the greatest boon to the miners.

Mr. Gates, after leaving British Columbia, went by way of Vancouver to Seattle, and while there witnessed the arrival of the steamer Portland from Alaska, which brought down $1,250,000 in gold dust and nuggets. He bought the gold which he brought back to Chicago from different persons at Seattle.

CHAPTER IV.

AT THE KLONDYKE MINES.

Wonderful Richness of Deposits — How to Fix a Klondyke Claim — What Capt. Higgins Knows — Fred Price's Experience — An Authority — Fresh Confirmation—Along the Creeks—What Mr. Ogilvie Heard—Gold Storage—He Gives a Pointer—Two French Miners — What a Missouri Miner Tells—A Mild Winter in Alaska—On the Cost of Living—Kept Tab on the Buyers—The Klondyke Capital—Great Things About Dawson City—It Is a Moral Town—Mines Not at Dawson—Gold by the Gallon—No Night in Klondyke—What to Take Along—Mr. Bowker Met a Man—Jealous California—Nugget Worth $16,000—Prospects at Klondyke—A Summary by Californians—Big Luck for "Tenderfeet"—Gold in Frozen Soil—Views by a Hardy Mariner — From a Canadian Editor — A Sober Official View—The Toronto Globe Exults.

Wonderful tales are told of the great richness of the Klondyke placers. More than one man reports having obtained $1,000 from a single pan washing, while reports of yields of $500 and $600 to the pan are numerous. An ordinary pan of gravel will weigh twenty-five pounds and a yield of $1,000 worth of gold means sixty-two ounces, or nearly one-sixth of

the entire bulk in precious metal. The average is said to be $50 to the pan, and this is phenomenal when it is taken into consideration that the California pan washer was well pleased with a uniform product of $3 to a washing, and could make money with a yield running as low as 50 cents. With this kind of field to work in, it is small wonder that claim-holders gladly pay $15 a day for common labor, and are unable to get anything like a fair supply at that. It is only men who are "broke" that will work for wages.

HOW TO FIX A KLONDYKE CLAIM.

The same general rules for acquiring a title to a claim in the western states apply to Alaska and the Canadian northwest. The governments make no charge for the land, but the holder is required to do at least $100 worth of work on his claim every year for five years to get an absolute title to it. He has the privilege of doing the entire $500 worth of work at once if he chooses to do so, and on proof of it may get his patent. The Canadian government exacts $5 a year from prospectors as a license fee.

The man who locates a claim is allowed a full year before he puts up his location notice for working the first assessment, during which time his right is absolute and is also negotiable. A purchaser fulfilling the obligation entered into by the discoverer enjoys the same rights.

In Alaska and in the Klondyke the first miners in a district hold a meeting and fix the size of the claims, and also agree as to how much work shall constitute an assessment. The miners also elect a register, and his fee for recording or transferring is the only one incumbent upon the owner of a claim.

About the only tools considered absolutely necessary in the placers are a pick, shovel and gold pan. It is nearly always desirable, but not always possible, to have a sluice. This sometimes is very primitive. It may be only a gully bottomed with cobblestones, or plank troughing, with riffles or cleats at intervals across the bottom. In either case, the gold-bearing dirt or gravel is thrown in while water is running through the sluice. The current is supposed to carry away the worthless rocks and dirt, allowing the gold to drop to the bottom. If the gold is in finely divided particles, the sluice is made tight and quicksilver is placed above the riffles, which envelops and holds the gold dust. No two mines are exactly alike, and the manner of working them has to be varied to suit the circumstances.

WHAT CAPT. HIGGINS KNOWS.

In a letter to a friend at San Diego, Cal., Capt. J. F. Higgins, of the steamer Excelsior, thus writes of Klondyke:

"The word Klondyke means Deer river. The stream is called Reindeer river on the charts. It empties into the Yukon. The geographical position of the junction is 76 degrees 10 minutes north latitude, 138 degrees 50 minutes west longitude. Bonanza creek dumps into Klondyke about two miles above the Yukon. Eldorado is a tributary of the Bonanza. There are numerous other creeks and tributaries, the main river being 300 miles long. The gold so far has been taken from Bonanza and Eldorado, both well named, for the richness of the placers is truly marvelous. Eldorado, thirty miles long, is staked the whole length, and as far as worked has paid.

"As each claim is fifty feet along the creek bed, there is half a million to the claim. So uniform has the output been that one miner, who has an interest in three claims, told me that if offered his choice he would toss up to decide. One of our passengers has worked 100 feet of his ground, and refused $200,000 for the remainder, and confidently expects to clean up $400,000 and more. He has in a bottle $212 for one pan of dirt. His pay dirt while being washed averaged $250 an hour to each man shoveling in. Two others of our miners who worked their own claims cleaned up $6,000 from the day's washing. There is about fifteen feet of dirt above bed rock, the pay streak averaging from four to six feet, which is tunneled out while the ground is frozen. Of course, the ground taken out is thawed by building fires, and when the thaw comes and water rushes in, they set their sluices and wash the dirt. Two of our fellows thought a small bird in the hand worth a large one in the bush and sold their claims for $45,000, getting $4,500 down, the remainder to be paid in monthly installments of $10,000 each. The purchasers had no more than the $5,000 paid. They were twenty days thawing and getting out dirt. Then there was no water to sluice with, but one fellow made a rocker and in ten days took out the $10,000 for the first installment. So, tunneling and rocking, they took out $40,000 before there was water to sluice with.

"Of course, these things read like the story of Aladdin, but fiction is not at all in it with facts at Klondyke. The ground located and prospected can be worked out in a few years, but there is still an immense territory untouched, and the laboring man

Wood's Old Book Store
[illegible], Oakland, Cal.
Old and New Books and Music Bought,
Sold and Exchanged.

who can get there with one year's provisions will have a better chance to make a stake than in any other part of the world."

FRED PRICE'S EXPERIENCE.

Fred Price, a Seattle man, who has returned from the Klondyke with several thousand dollars in gold dust, says that there is great fear of suffering on the part of those who attempt to go into that country without an abundance of supplies of provisions.

He does not believe the trading companies can begin to supply the demand which will be made on them. Price thinks the men who take up horses to cross the pass from Dyea will do well. They can get their provisions in easy that way and sell the horses for dog meat afterward. He also advises newcomers to look for claims on other creeks besides the tributaries of the Klondyke, the latter being pretty well staked out. Stewart river creeks promise as well as the Klondyke. He says further that gambling dens and dance halls have already opened in Dawson. Games of every description are running, and some of the miners play very heavy. They go into the mining town in sheer desperation at the loneliness and gloom of winter and gamble in recklessly to break the monotony. Price says it is hard to get along in Dawson City on less than $50 a day, and many of the men spend ten times that much. He claims that one saloon cleaned up $30,000 in three weeks this summer.

AN AUTHORITY ON THE KLONDYKE.

Joseph Ladue, who owns the townsite of Dawson City, Alaska, and struck it rich on the Klondyke, ar-

rived lately at Plattsburgh, N. Y. On June 23 he left Alaska, arriving in San Francisco about a month later. He emphatically denies the story published in a New York morning paper that the object of his visit here was to marry an old sweetheart. His visit was to see those who had befriended him when he was friendless.

The notoriety which the papers have given him is not pleasing to Ladue. It required a bushel basket to carry the mail which had accumulated here for him during the past week. The letters were from all parts of the country.

Mr. Ladue said that he applied for a townsite patent for Dawson City in 1896. It is located on the Yukon, seventy-five miles from the Alaskan frontier, and is consequently on Canadian soil. When asked as to the richness of the Klondyke country, Mr. Ladue said:

"I have not seen any late reports, but it is pretty hard to exaggerate it. Individuals may have exaggerated as to the amounts they have taken out, but as to the wealth of the country, the reports are generally correct. I believe the largest amount taken out by one person was $81,000, brought out by Frank Phiscator, of Washington. About $2,000,000 have come out, and at that ratio it is fair to assume that fifteen millions will be produced by the same miners during the winter.

"The extent of the craze and quest for riches," continued Mr. Ladue, "may be judged from the fact that gold was discovered in September last, and that already eight hundred claims are staked within a radius of twenty miles of Dawson City. There is no jumping of claims. Three months' work each

year is required to hold a claim. Failing in this, the land reverts to the government. The laws of Canada are stringent in such matters, and severe penalties are imposed for jumping or other interference with the rights of claimants. Each claim is 500 feet along the creek, and extending to the foothills on either side.

Asked if he was correctly quoted in advising people not to go in until spring, Mr. Ladue said:

"Yes. It is too late to go in now. The gold fields are located 1,700 miles up the Yukon river. If many people go in, it will be impossible to get provisions there in sufficient quantities. Next spring will be a better time to go than now. Nothing will be lost by the delay.

"The truth of the richness of this country has not been half told, and no one can exaggerate the probable wealth to be found in this far-off country."

FRESH CONFIRMATION.

A late San Francisco letter brings the following: More treasure was received from the Arctic gold fields by the steamer Bertha from Unalaska, but it came in the form of 500 tons of gold concentrates from Unga Island. Valued at $40 a ton, it is worth $20,000.

This Unga Island mine is on the coast, and is operated by the Apollo Mining Company. The quartz is rich, and is handled cheaply, but the cost of erecting the plant was heavy.

The steamer brought about two weeks later advices from Dawson City. Only four persons came down in the steamer, and none of them was from Klondyke.

Unalaska has the gold fever as badly as other places along the Alaskan shore. Her delegation of Klondykers started toward the diggings some months ago, leaving the town deserted, except by Indians, and the latter would not get excited if Muir glacier were grinding out $20 pieces and showering them all over Alaska.

The Bertha brings advices that will not encourage the miners. Every claim within miles of the Klondyke river is taken up, and nearly 5,000 people are at the new diggings.

Those who got in late have gone further to the northeast of the Klondyke to look for new locations.

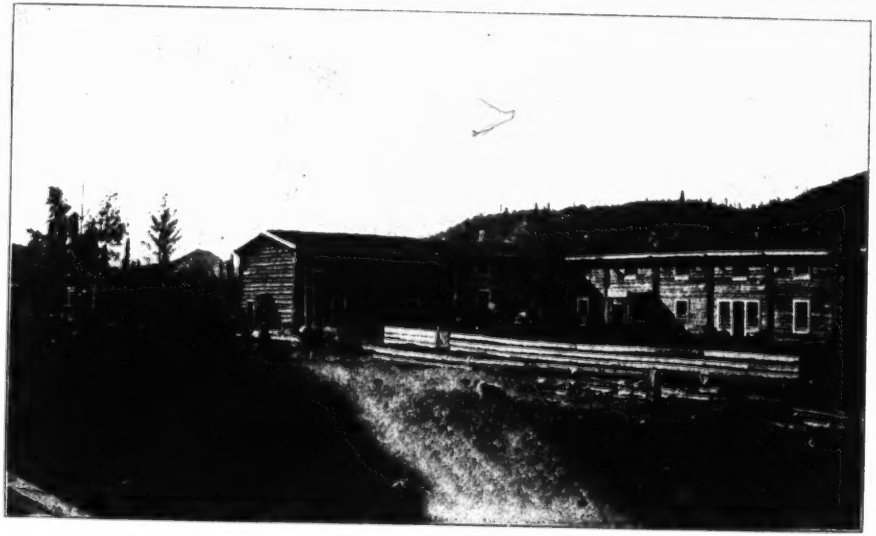
The Dawson City region was still paying at latest accounts, but mining parties have struck out northeast and southwest, the latter toward American territory.

ALONG THE CREEKS.

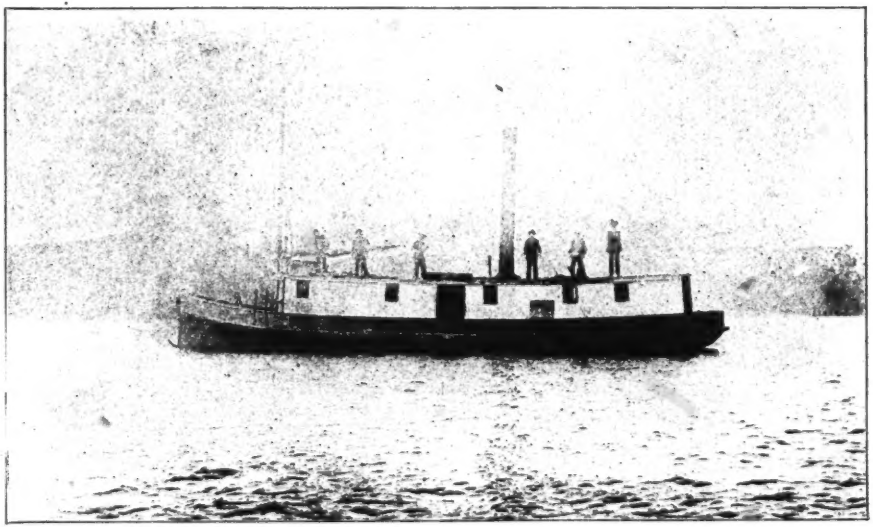
Bear creek is one of the streams that enters Klondyke, and it has been prospected and located on. Compared with Bonanza, it is small, and will not afford more than twenty to thirty claims, it is said. About twelve miles above the mouth Gold Bottom creek joins Klondyke, and on it and a branch named Hunker creek, after the discoverer, very rich ground has been found. One man showed me $2,275 he took out in a few hours on Hunker creek with a gold pan, prospecting his claim on the surface, taking a handful here and there as fancy suggested. On Gold Bottom Creek and branches there will probably be two or three hundred claims. The Indians have reported another creek much farther up, which they call "Too-Much-Gold creek," on which the gold is so plentiful that, as the miners say in joke, "you have

to mix gravel with it to sluice it." Up to date nothing definite has been heard from this creek.

From all this we may, I think, infer that we have here a district which will give 1,000 claims of 500 feet in length each. Now, 1,000 such claims will require at least 3,000 men to work them properly, and as wages for working in the mines are from $8 to $10 per day without board, we have every reason to assume that this part of our territory will in a year or two contain 10,000 souls at least; for the news has gone out to the coast, and an unprecedented influx is expected next spring. And this is not all, for a large creek called Indian creek joins the Yukon about midway between Klondyke and Stewart rivers, and all along this creek good pay has been found. All that has stood in the way of working it heretofore has been the scarcity of provisions and the difficulty of getting them up there even when here. Indian Creek is quite a large stream, and it is probable it will yield five or six hundred claims. Farther south yet lies the head of several branches of Stewart river, on which some prospecting has been done this summer, and good indications found, but the want of provisions prevented development. Now gold has been found in several of the streams joining Pelly river, and also all along the Hootalinqua. In the line of these finds farther south is the Cassair gold field, in British Columbia, so the presumption is that we have in our territory along the easterly water shed of the Yukon a gold-bearing belt of indefinite width, and upwards of 300 miles long, exclusive of the British Columbia part of it. On the westerly side of the Yukon prospecting has been done on a creek a short distance above Selkirk, with a fair amount



FT. CUDAHY WAREHOUSES.



STEAMER SEA LION, IN LITANYA BAY.

of success, and on a large creek some thirty or forty miles below Selkirk fair prospects have been found, but, as before remarked, the difficulty of getting supplies here prevents any extensive or extended prospecting.

WHAT MR. OGILVIE HEARD.

Dalton informed me, says Inspector Ogilvie, he had found good prospects on a small creek nearly midway between the coast range and Selkirk in his route. His man showed me some coarse gold, about a dollar's worth, he found on the head of a branch of the Altsek river, near the head of Chilcat inlet, which is inside the summit of the coast range, and of course in the Dominion. From this you will gather that we have a very large area all more or less gold-bearing, and which will all yet be worked.

Good quartz has been found in places just across the line on Davis creek, but of what extent is unknown, as it is in the bed of the creek and covered with gravel. Good quartz is also reported on the hills around Bonanza creek, but of this I will be able to speak more fully after my proposed survey. It is pretty certain from information I have got from prospectors that all, or nearly all, of the northerly branch of White river is on our side of the line, and copper is found on it, but more abundantly on the southerly branch, of which a great portion is in our territory, also, so it is probable we have that metal, too. I have seen here several lumps of native copper brought by the natives from "White river," but just from what part is uncertain. I have also seen a specimen of silver ore said to have been picked up in a creek flowing into Bennet Lake, about fourteen miles down, on the east side. I think this is

enough to show that we may look forward with confidence to a fairly bright future for this part of our territory.

When it was fairly established that Bonanza creek was rich in gold, which took a few days, for Klondyke had been prospected several times with no encouraging result, there was a great rush from all over the country adjacent to Forty Mile. The town was almost deserted; men who had been in a chronic state of drunkenness for weeks were pitched into boats as ballast and taken up to stake themselves a claim, and claims were staked by men for their friends who were not in the country at the time. All this gave rise to such conflict and confusion, there being no one present to take charge of matters, the agent being unable to go up and attend to the thing, and myself not yet knowing what to do, that the miners held a meeting and appointed one of themselves to measure off and stake the claims and record the owners' names in connection therewith, for which he got a fee of $2, it being, of course, understood that each claim holder would have to record his claim with the Dominion agent and pay his fee of $15.

GOLD STORAGE.

Warren Shea, of Washington state, a reputable and reliable man, writes from Klondyke to his brother, S. Shea, of New Whatcom, and says the next boat to leave the gold field will bring out dust and nuggets in barrels. Two days after the boat that brought out the miners, who arrived on Puget Sound aboard the steamer Portland, left Dawson City, one of the largest stores at that place was closed and the building was turned into a gold packing warehouse. So

great a quantity of gold was offered for shipment that it was decided to pack it in barrels holding about twenty-two gallons. The barrels have heretofore been used for packing salt fish.

HE GIVES A POINTER.

Burt Shuler, writing from Klondyke under date of June 5, says: "We have been here but a short time and we all have money. Provisions are much higher than they were two years ago, and clothing is clean out of sight. One of the A. C. Co.'s boats was lost in the spring, and there will be a shortage of provisions again this fall. There is nothing that a man could eat or wear that he cannot get a good price for. First-class rubber boots are worth from an ounce to $25 a pair. The price of flour has been raised from $4 to $6, and it was selling at $50 when we arrived, as it was being freighted from Forty-Mile. Big money can be made by bringing a small outfit over the trail this fall. Wages have been $15 per day all winter, though a reduction to $10 was attempted, but the miners quit work. Here is a creek that is eighteen miles long, and, as far as is known, without a miss. There is not enough men in the country today to work the claims. Several other creeks show equal promise, but very little work has been done on the latter. I have seen gold dust until it seems almost as cheap as sawdust. If you are coming in, come prepared to stay two years at least. Bring plenty of clothing and good rubber boots.

TWO FRENCH MINERS.

Henry Dore and J. E. Boucher both tell tales of the hardest kind of experiences. Thirty days on flour

and water and $30 taken from the ground in eight months is but a portion of Dore's experience. Of all those who have returned, his tale is one that ought to make those without experience think twice before plunging into unknown dangers. Mr. Boucher left his home in Wisconsin three years ago, went in by Juneau and the Chilkoot to Forty Mile, and had the usual run of poor luck. He went to work for $12.50 a day, but soon gave out, and he then went prospecting. He says:

"I had no better success at this than at work, and was pretty well disgusted, when I heard of a strike at Klondyke. I struck a good claim and cleaned up about $10,000. I am going back home to enjoy myself till next spring, when I will go back again if I do not sell out in the meantime."

WHAT A MISSOURI MINER TELLS.

Mr. B. F. Purcell, the first Missourian to return from the Klondyke, has summed up his impressions of the new El Dorado in the Northwest Territory. And Mr. Purcell ought to know, for he had a 15-months' stay in the Yukon and Klondyke district, and earned in it the third fortune he has made in mining. A successful miner in both California and Montana, Mr. Purcell declares the new gold field is the most wonderful country he ever saw, and that the half of its riches is not even imagined.

"The popular idea of the Klondyke field is most erroneous," said Mr. Purcell. "In the first place, there are no mines on the Klondyke river. Even if its bed and banks were made of pay dirt, they could not be worked. There is too much water in the stream, and the current is too rapid. We never refer to the region as the Klondyke field.

"All the mines, with the exception of one, are located from five to ten miles from the Klondyke river, on tributary streams. Some of these streams, which are only creeks, are the El Dorado, the Bonanza, Skucum, Bear creek, Hunker, Gold Bottom, and Dominion. We speak of the field according to its location, as the Bonanza creek district, and so forth. The only claim on the Klondyke river is at the mouth of Bear creek.

"The Bonanza creek district is the richest of all.

A MILD WINTER IN ALASKA.

"Last winter," said Mr. Purcell, "was a mild one, yet the spirit thermometer (mercury freezes in the bulb up there) registered as low as 62 degrees below zero. Most of the time it was from 20 to 40 degrees below, and that we considered pretty good working weather.

"Of course, the men don't work all day in that temperature, but when properly attired they can accomplish considerable in the course of a week.

"For outdoor work we put on as many pairs of socks as we could, then slipped on wool boots, and tied the whole up in hay. Over our heads and shoulders we wore what is called a 'parquet.' It is a nondescript sort of garment, which tightens with strings like a woman's skirt, and covers all the face but the eyes, nose and mouth.

"I generally moistened a piece of rabbit skin and stuck it on my nose. This kept that member from freezing.

"Very few people up there wear beards or mustaches. When it is 40 degrees below zero one's breath freezes and the hair on one's face becomes a

mass of ice that is decidedly uncomfortable to carry around.

"But the winters are not the only climatic drawback. In summers we were beset by flies and mosquitoes. The torture inflicted by these pests is something no one can do justice to in a descriptive way. I have seen strong men lie down and cry like babies as a result of the bites. There is seldom a breath of air, and the heat is so intense that to wear a cheesecloth protection for the head is unbearable. Last summer scurvy became epidemic, and that added to the troubles of the camps.

"When I left Dawson City there was no such thing as a boarding-house. Every man was his own cook, and every man had to provide his own shelter or else go without it. We generally got as much to eat as we wanted, but the kind was not always palatable. And in this connection I don't mind saying that I am glad to get back to old Missouri and get three square meals a day of home cooking. I've had enough beans and bacon and canned goods to last me until next spring, when I shall go back again."

ON THE COST OF LIVING.

"The cost of living is proportionate to the opportunities for making money. Flour sells for $24 a barrel; salt pork, bacon, hams, and shoulders bring 40 cents a pound; evaporated potatoes, 40 cents a pound, and the raw tubers 65 cents a pound; condensed milk, the only kind we got, was 50 cents a can; rice and tapioca, 30 cents a pound; canned mutton, 75 cents a can; and evaporated California fruits 35 cents a pound.

"Saloons do a good business at 50 cents a drink or

a cigar. Liquor is between $25 and $30 a gallon, and lime juice, which is taken for the scurvy, is $2.50 a gallon."

Mr. Purcell says there is great danger of a famine in the Klondyke region this winter. "When I first went there," he said, "there were not over 600 people there. When I left last June, there were 3,000, and each steamer was bringing accessions. I see that the rush is still on, and unless a great many people return before the freeze-up, which comes in September, there will be much suffering this winter. The reason for this is that the Alaska Commercial Company and the North American Trading Company, which furnish the supplies, are unable to transport enough provisions to supply the people in the field.

"All through the summer the stocks were low—so low that when a boat landed the stock was sold as fast as it was unloaded, and never got into the big warehouses. If that was the situation when boats were arriving regularly, what can be the result four or five or six months after the freeze-up? Much of the room in the boats that should have been filled with provisions was stocked with whisky and heavy furniture, stoves, etc.

KEPT TAB ON THE BUYERS.

"All during the summer the trading companies kept tab on the buyers, and measured out the stock something like rations are distributed in the army. One man could not buy a full outfit for any sum, the idea being to give to each his proportion of what there was to eat.

"The miners are a sociable, brotherly lot. When one runs out of any particular thing, he goes to his

neighbor, and is never refused half the latter has. This transfer is not in the nature of a pecuniary transaction, as this borrowing is constantly going on on all sides.

"With this disposition among the residents, there is no danger of anyone starving to death as long as there is anything to eat to be divided; but I am afraid there will be serious trouble before spring.

"Most of the miners know the situation, and are aware that a famine is imminent, but they want to stay on the ground, and seem determined to take chances of coming out over the ice with dog teams if worst comes to worst."

THE KLONDYKE CAPITAL.

Dawson City, the center of the new mining region, although sixty-five miles distant from the Klondyke, is said to be a typical mining camp—minus the guns. The British government enforces its laws in Dawson, and those laws prohibit the use of firearms, so few men carry guns. The laws of the camp are enforced by mounted police, whose captain is a civil officer. Though there are said to be 3,000 people in Dawson, few houses have been built, for the principal reason that lumber is $100 per 1,000 feet. The general fear is, of course, that there will be great suffering there this winter, and it will be increased, it is expected, by the rush of unprepared prospectors who sailed for the new fields immediately on learning what luck had befallen those who have but recently returned.

GREAT THINGS ABOUT DAWSON CITY.

"I am afraid," said one of the influential miners

DOG TEAM.

PELLY INDIANS.

who returned on a San Francisco boat, "that all the talk and excitement will cause such a stampede to the northwest that there will be great suffering during next winter and spring. Still, if people are only ordinarily careful, there is no occasion for any such thing. There are many good things that can be said about Dawson City besides the gold that has made it famous. In my own way I want to tell the people of some of these good qualities, as well as the business and social conditions, and how matters are conducted there.

"Speculation is already the ruling idea. A purchaser inspects a claim that he thinks he would like to buy. He offers just what he thinks it is worth. There is no skirmishing over figures; the owner either accepts or refuses, and that is the end of it. With this claim goes the season's work. By that I mean the great pile of earth that may contain thousands or may not be worth the expense necessary to run it through the sluice. That is a chance one must take, however, and few have lost anything by it this season.

"I do not know in the whole Klondyke region a single claim that has not paid handsomely, and there are still hundreds of claims that have not been worked. In testing a claim, the prospector sinks a hole, say fifteen feet, and then tries a pan of dirt. If the pay streak has been reached, he sets to work in earnest to gather in more of the precious metal. This process consists of building a fire around the entire circle, allowing it to burn through the night. The next morning there is enough loose dirt lying about to keep a squad of men busy throughout the day. I have known men to hoist in a day as many as 250

buckets of soil, each weighing 250 pounds. This dirt is not disturbed until spring, when it is washed out, and when a man buys a claim he buys the dump also, but he takes his own chances on the latter.

IT IS A MORAL TOWN.

"It may be said with absolute truth that Dawson City is one of the most moral towns of its kind in the world. There is little or no quarreling, and no brawls of any kind, though there is considerable drinking and gambling. Every man carries a pistol if he wishes to, yet few do, and it is a rare occurrence when one is displayed.

"The principal sport with the mining men is found around the gambling table. There they gather after nightfall and play until late hours in the morning. They have some big games, too, it sometimes costing as much as $50 to draw a card. A game of $2,000 as the stakes is an ordinary event. But with all that, there has not been any decided trouble. If a man is fussy and quarrelsome, he is quietly told to get out of the game, and that is the end of it.

"Many people have an idea that Dawson City is completely isolated, and can communicate with the outside world only once every twelve months. That is a mistake. Circle City, only a few miles away, has a mail once each month, and there we have our mail addressed. It is true, the cost is pretty high—a dollar a letter and $2 for paper—yet by that expenditure of money we are able to keep in direct communication with our friends on the outside. In the way of public institutions, our camp is at present without any, but by the next season we will have a church, a music hall, schoolhouse and hospital. This

last institution will be under the direct control of the Sisters of Mercy, who have already been stationed for a long time at Circle City and Forty Mile Camp.

MINES NOT AT DAWSON.

"The impression seems to prevail that the mines are close to Dawson City. That is a mistake. The rich creeks are fifteen miles off, and it is a day's journey to them. The camp there is as pretty a place as one desires to see. The white tents and huts of the miners are scattered along the banks of the creeks or built on the mountain sides, as convenience or fancy dictated.

"I know of no place in the whole northwest, or in the world, for that matter, where a man with a little capital can do so well. There is an opening for every kind of business, and I have no doubt that next season will see the town flooded with men of all callings."

GOLD BY THE GALLON.

One of the most important letters that have come from the Klondyke gold fields reached Seattle on a recent day. It is dated Dawson City, June 14, and is signed by Benjamin R. Shaw, representative of several big insurance companies, and is addressed to a prominent Seattle merchant. In it he says: "There has been $2,000,000 worth of dust taken out so far in the district. At a low estimate there will be $50,000,000 taken out during the next year.

"I started in on the trip with pretty hard luck, for I lost all of my outfit in the wreck of the steamer Willapa except my sled and a few tools. I got a new outfit at Juneau and reached Dawson City June 10. As I left Seattle March 15, I was nearly three months

on the road. I rather enjoyed the trip. There was some hard work, but I had no mishaps after leaving Dyea.

NO NIGHT IN KLONDYKE.

"There is no night here now. It is light as midday the twenty-four hours, and neither too warm nor too cold. This is a great mining strike, probably the greatest on the American continent or in the world. I know you will not believe me when I tell you all about it. Gold has not been found in great paying quantities except on two creeks. Some of the pay streaks are nearly all gold. One thousand dollars to the pan is not an uncommon thing, and as high as 100 ounces have been taken out at a single pan. It is not uncommon to see men coming in with all the gold dust they can carry.

"You would not believe me when I tell you that I went into one cabin and counted five five-gallon oil cans full of gold dust, but it is a fact. It is the result of the work of two men during the winter, and the dust is not much more than half worked out.

"I went to work as soon as I got here for $10 a day, because all the rich claims were taken. I hope to get located on a paying claim myself. Some of the saloons take in from $2,000 to $3,000 a day. All pay is in gold dust and nothing less than 50 cents. A glass of beer costs 50 cents, and I don't drink many. There is plenty of provisions here. Flour is $12 a hundred pounds, and other provisions are accordingly high. Charles Kimball, of Seattle, is taking in from $300 to $500 a day. There are about 1,000 people in the neighborhood of the town. Most of them live in tents, but some good buildings are being put up."

WHAT TO TAKE ALONG.

For the benefit of those inexperienced in mining who desire to go to the gold fields an old miner has furnished the following list of things which are absolutely necessary for a prospecting tour:

Fur-lined sleeping bag, rubber hip boots, extra heavy wool underclothing, preferably lined with natural wool; fur-lined gloves, mackintosh, cap which will pull down over the face, two pairs of extra heavy blankets, rubber blanket, dark goggles.

Outer clothing should of course be as heavy as can be obtained. The above-named articles can best be obtained before leaving. The goggles are very necessary to prevent blindness from the intense glare of the snow, especially in the spring.

Tools needed for prospecting are:

Miner's pan, light pick, half-spring, long-handled shovel, four-pound ax, 16-inch machete.

The last-named is of great utility in cutting through underbrush and for a thousand and one other purposes. All of these can be obtained at a good price in Alaska, or they can be carried as baggage. The same is true of the cooking utensils. The provisions can best be bought after arriving in Alaska.

Cooking utensils needed are: Coffee pot, small kettle, frying pan, two tin plates, two tin cups, knife and fork, and two spoons.

Any man can live quite well for some time if he is provided with the following portable articles of food: Flour, bacon, beans, coffee, baking powder, salt and pepper.

MR. BOWKER MET A MAN.

F. G. H. Bowker, one of the returned Yukoners, who brings back nearly $40,000 in gold dust, the re-

sult of six months' work, is authority for the statement that on the American side of the international boundary placer fields have been found which even put those of the Klondyke into the shade.

When his party was descending the Yukon on the return from Dawson City the steamship was intercepted by a man who desired to send letters and papers back to civilization. This man was one of a party who had gone down the river from Dawson in the hope of locating rich beds of which Indians in the vicinity had been telling. The members of the party were well known to the Yukoners and full credence is given to the story.

Bowker and his associates were told that just across the Alaska boundary, on the American side, the party had found placer fields fabulously rich in gold. They had staked out claims and begun to work them.

"Every one of us has taken out thousands of dollars in dust and nuggets already," said Bowker's informant, "and there seems no limit to the gold in sight. It is more abundant than on the Klondyke and easier to work, the gold being very near the surface of the ground. We are all rich already, but we are going to stay through next winter."

Further information was conveyed that there were only white men in the new district, and they had the field practically to themselves. They advised Bowker and his companions to forsake Klondyke claims on their return from the States and take claims in the new diggings.

The point at which the fortunate treasure hunters are working is northwest of Dawson and but a few miles west of the boundary. Their claims are in a valley of one of the numerous creeks emptying into the Yukon.

JEALOUS CALIFORNIA.

Clarence Berry, recently from the Klondyke, has at his hotel in San Francisco a goodly pile of golden nuggets, among them one weighing thirteen ounces, which is the second largest ever found near the Yukon. Thirteen-ounce nuggets are, of course, not to be sneezed at, but, compared with the product of the California gold regions, they are in size about as potatoes to watermelons.

One of the finest of the California nuggets was that found by Oliver Martin. It weighed 151 pounds and six ounces. The discovery of this rich mass was purely accidental. Martin and a companion named Flower were camped in a canon when a terrible rainstorm came on, quickly swelling the stream. The miners attempted to climb the hill, but the flood overtook them and both were carried down with the rush of waters. Flower was drowned, but Martin, though severely injured, escaped.

While trying to bury his companion's body by the roots of an upturned tree Martin discovered the great lump of gold and quartz. He was too weak to move it, so he attempted to reach some neighboring miners, but fainted from exhaustion on the way. The miners came across him, however, and some weeks later he was able to lead them to the spot and the nugget was removed. It was found to be worth $20,000.

NUGGET WORTH $16,000.

The biggest nugget of gold ever found in Shasta county was discovered by three Frenchmen in 1870. They were looking for a good place to mine, and, having some business with Mr. Coleman, a hardware dealer, asked him where they had better start in. He care-

lessly pointed in a northerly direction and said: "Go over to Spring Creek." They took his advice, and a few days after they had located there one of the party came across a nugget worth $16,000.

In Sierra county the year previous, the five partners in the Monumental claim discovered a nugget which weighed 1,593 ounces. They sold it for $21,637 to a San Francisco man, who used it for exhibition purposes. When he had finished showing it he had it melted, realizing from it $17,655. A still more valuable nugget was found in 1850 in the same county. It was valued at $23,000.

Plumas county, though one of the richest mining districts in California, yielded only a few very valuable nuggets. In 1861 a Chinaman discovered one worth $9,600, and a miner another which brought him $4,906.

In El Dorado county a poor Frenchman found a nugget valued at $5,000. The sight of so much gold drove him insane. The money was sent to his family in France.

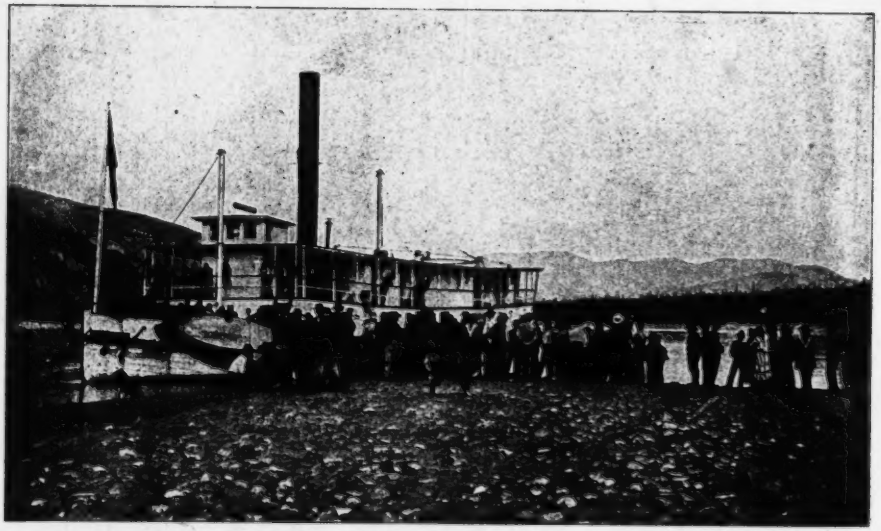
It is said that the largest nugget ever found in California was discovered at Carson Hill, Calaveras county, in 1854. It weighed 118 pounds. Another of respectable size, weighing 149 pounds, was found shortly after at the same place. California nuggets worth $3,000 to $5,000 might be mentioned by the score.

The largest ever discovered in Siberia weighed ninety-six pounds four ounces. The heaviest nugget of gold ever found in the world was that found in Australia in 1852. It weighed 223 pounds and was known as the Water Moon nugget.

PROSPECTS AT KLONDYKE.

The Eldorado and Bonanza claims, states one re-

GROUP OF MILLER CREEK MINERS.



STEAMER ARCTIC.

port, are said to be wonderful and they expect to take out over three millions this summer. Ogilvie told me he himself washed one pan of dirt with $560 in it. I am starting to build a shanty, as we must have some headquarters, and unless we strike some paying diggings this summer I suppose the men will winter here. I have made out provision lists for a year's supply, and will order the stuff when the boat arrives. I should think there are about 20,000 gallons of whisky being brought in, and any amount of music hall and dance house paraphernalia. I hear they even got a piano packed across the summit. There is any amount of wealth here; everybody has a sack of dust which is chucked about promiscuous-like. There doesn't seem to be any money; a man stands drinks, flops down his sack, the bartender takes out a handful, weighs it, puts back what is over and throws the sack back. Everybody wants to buy canoes. I could get $300 apiece for them. Two men were drowned at the White Horse, and one man was accidentally shot on Lebarge and killed; and several boats were lost on the rocks with their cargoes, but it is a grand river, and with very little work could be made navigable for steamers all the way to White Horse Rapids, a distance of nearly 500 miles. That would give them 2,000 miles from the south. I must not forget to tell you that there is no such thing as being able to buy a claim for a reasonable price. Several of the police sold out half interests for $40,000 and there are men here who refuse to take $75,000 for claims. One old ragged-looking ruffian laughed scornfully last night at a chap who offered him $1,000 for his claim and said he might consider $200,000. Like all new diggings, the least rumor of a new discovery starts them going.

Last night the Alice, the Alaska Company's steamer, went up the river from here with about 200 men, all bound for this Henderson creek. I suppose there are two thousand men scattered about there. Circle City has been deserted since last winter, and every soul has left Fort Cudahy (formerly Mile), so you see there are any amount of people ahead of us, and our only chance that I see is to watch and wait for new discoveries. The storekeeper at Fort Selkirk kept a register of people coming in, and when I passed there some 736 registered this spring, and 130 who passed without stopping. So far as I can learn, if a man locates a claim he can do nothing till the winter sets in. Then he prospects it by burning out the frost (occasionally washing out a pan or so over the stove in his shanty). The dump, of course, freezes solid at once, and is left till the following summer, when he is able to sluice it. It is, of course, perpetual frost here, but directly you dig down a foot it fills up with water instantly. Just now all the streams are bank full, and there is no way to get provisions in, except what you can carry on your back, which is not much. I believe they have a sort of pack trail to the nearest diggings on El Dorado creek, about eleven miles from here. The whole thing is a perfect gamble. There are no surface indications whatever, and the coarsest gold has been found in the most unlikely places, a good deal of it in black muck under a muskeg."

A SUMMARY BY CALIFORNIANS.

A San Francisco report states:

The rage for Klondyke gold grows daily. California is sending thousands of prospectors up the coast with the hope of catching transportation to the fields

in Alaska. Everybody is talking gold, and every new line of information confirms the theory that Alaska has an incalculable supply of the yellow metal.

The gold is found in the gravel beds of a number of creeks in this region, but as yet very little ground has been broken. No one has advanced more than nine miles up the Klondyke, operations being almost entirely confined to the district around Bonanza creek and its first tributary, the Eldorado.

The Clarence Berry mine No. 6 is on the latter river. It carries a pay streak 150 feet wide, averaging three feet in thickness the full length of the claim. The drift is about nine feet thick, and immediately below this pay dirt is encountered, averaging from 8 cents to 25 cents to the pan. This is not up to the Klondyke standard, however, and sinking is continued until dirt weighing 75 cents a pan is reached. This grade lies from eighteen to twenty feet below the surface, generally close to the bed rock.

On other fields dirt that averages 10 cents to the pan is considered very rich, but here it runs up to $4 and $5, while not infrequently a single pan yields as high as $150 to $200.

BIG LUCK FOR "TENDERFEET."

The heaviest washed so far was from No. 6. It weighed $338, one nugget alone being worth $238. One man is said to have washed out $40,000 in two days, and two "tenderfeet" from Chicago, Wier and Beecher, cleared $20,000 in two months, besides paying $10,000 royalty.

The luckiest in the party which arrived at this port lately were Mr. and Mrs. Lipton, who, though they had been at the diggings since April, 1896, only, re-

turned with $60,000. Most of the party were "tenderfeet," and had spent but one season at the mines, yet some of them had taken out from $10,000 to $25,000 in a few weeks. In the nine miles advance up the Klondyke, it is said, there are several mines that will yield over $1,000,000, one piece of ground on the Eldorado, forty-five feet wide, having yielded $90,000. The Berry claim has produced $145,000 in a few months, and there is a pile of gravel on the dump, ready to be washed as soon as sufficient water can be obtained, which contains as much more.

Every man at Klondyke is a gold bug. The currency is gold dust, which the mail carrier between Juneau and Yukon says is as common as sawdust around a sash factory. Prosperity has struck the district with a big P. Every newcomer in camp is seized up at once and offered wages as high as $50 a day, but even at this figure men cannot be obtained, the greater number preferring to test their luck digging for themselves. All winter men received $1.25 an hour on the Berry claim, but at these wages not a pick would have been raised had it not been for the fact that nothing can be done during the severe cold but pile the gravel on the dump ready for washing in the spring, and many of these men did not have enough food to keep them at this work on their own claims.

Every day was pay day. Mr. Berry settled with his men every night merely by taking a pan of dirt, washing it out with water obtained from melted ice, and weighing out each man's time in gold nuggets. His expenses averaged from $100 to $150 a day all winter, but this was a small sum for a place whence every man expects to return home a millionaire, and where a man

with less than $50 in his dust sack is looked upon as broke.

GOLD IN FROZEN SOIL.

In consequence of the climate the diggings have some peculiar features new to gold miners of the old school. The gold is carried in gravel beds frozen so hard that the sun never penetrates below the surface. Instead of powder, fire is used to thaw out the dirt and a shaft is sunk to the bed rock when drifting is begun. On the average the richest dirt is from fourteen to eighteen feet below the surface and is located by means of prospect holes. The miner sinks a dozen or fifteen of these in different parts of his claim, determines the extent and thickness of the pay streak, and, at the same time, arrives at a tolerably close estimate of the richness of his claim by averaging a number of pans from each hole.

It is not, as might be supposed, the severe winter that is the chief difficulty to be overcome by the Klondyke miner, nor yet the frozen state of the ground, but the scarcity of food and the problem of an unfailing supply that is the source of most anxiety to him. At present his position is precarious. The camps are dependent on the boats for supplies, and if these are delayed or fail to make an appearance they are soon at the starvation point. The water way, the Yukon, is frozen nearly all the year, and it is only during the short summer months that the boats can get up at all.

VIEWS BY A HARDY MARINER.

Lieutenant John Bryan of Lexington, who is on the revenue cutter Rush, stationed at Unalaska, Alaska, watching the seal fisheries, writes under date of July 9 to relatives in Kentucky that the Alaska gold fields

are not overestimated. He says the placer mining is in the old bed of the Yukon river. He says:

"You dig no deeper than fifteen feet into the river bed when you strike a strata of pure gold nuggets among the stones. There are eighty claims already taken, each 5,000 feet long and the width of the river bed.

"The great obstacle in reaching the gold fields is the uncomfortable mode of travel. Steamers go no further than the mouth of the Yukon, and you have to walk the 1,000 miles or pay the extravagant fare asked by the company, which runs a small boat up the river and finally lands you near the gold fields.

"All who are fortunate enough to reach the country are certain to find employment, even if they do not strike a claim, which at present they could avoid only by not looking for it. The poorest miners will pay $15 per day for help on their claims, but it will cost $5 per day to live unless you take your provisions with you."

The lieutenant says he has the gold fever badly, and if it were not for the fact that he is in the government service he would go to the new Eldorado.

FROM A CANADIAN EDITOR.

Thus does the Toronto "Globe" sum up editorially the evidence on the situation at Klondyke: "While there is probably much exaggeration in the stories that are brought back from the Yukon, it is only necessary to read the calm official reports of Mr. Ogilvie, the well-known officer of the Geological Survey, to realize that it is equally possible that there is no exaggeration in them at all. Mr. Ogilvie's notes read like passages from Monte Cristo. Writing on December

9, 1896, he said: "Bonanza creek and tributaries are increasing in richness and extent until now it is certain that millions will be taken out of the district in the next few years. On some of the claims prospected the pay dirt is of great extent and very rich. One man told me yesterday that he had washed out a single pan of dirt on one of the claims on Bonanza and found $14.25. Of course that may be an exceptionally rich pan, but $5 to $7 per pan is the average on that claim it is reported, with five feet of pay dirt and the width yet undetermined, but it is known to be 30 feet even at that; figure the result at nine to ten pans to the cubic foot, and 500 feet long—nearly $4,000,000 at $5 per pan. One-fourth of this would be enormous. Another claim has been prospected to such an extent that it is known there is about five feet pay dirt averaging $2 per pan, and width not less than 30 feet. Enough prospecting has been done to show that there are at least fifteen miles of this extraordinary richness, and the indications are that we will have three or four times that extent, if not all equal to the above, at least very rich."

A SOBER OFFICIAL VIEW.

This is the language of an official report, not of a claim boomster. It will be observed that he is speaking of Bonanza creek. These are the claims which are usually spoken of as the Klondyke claims. The Bonanza is a creek flowing into the Klondyke, which in turn flows into the Yukon. It is one of the rivers mentioned in the Washington treaty. By that document Canadians are entitled to the free use of that part of the Yukon which flows through Alaska. Another important geographical question is as to the

boundary line between Alaska and the British territories. It is generally known that it is claimed there is some room for differences of opinion as to the interpretation of the wording of the document defining the boundary. There can be no misunderstanding, however, in regard to the territories in which these discoveries have been made. The 141st degree of longitude is the dividing line. So soon as the whereabouts of that degree is determined the matter is settled once for all. All that is needed is to mark the line just as the parallel in the west was ascertained and marked. Mr. Ogilvie's task in the Yukon country has been to determine this point on behalf of the Canadian government. Beginning at the Yukon river itself he has laid out the line and marked it for several miles north and south of the river. The first result of his observations was to establish that Glacier and Miller creeks, two of the richest camps that had been struck prior to the discovery of Bonanza creek and which had been considered to be in Alaska, were really in British territory. Of course Mr. Ogilvie's location will not be considered as final until the United States officers have tested his observations and calculations, but as he has now taken the bearings twice and arrived at practically the same conclusion each time it is scarcely likely that much change can be effected.

It will be noticed that Mr. Ogilvie is of opinion that the Yukon gold fields are a continuation of the deposits that extend through British Columbia. He says: "In the line of these finds farther south is the Cassier gold field in British Columbia, so the presumption is that we have in our territory along the easterly watershed of the Yukon a gold-bearing belt

of indefinite width and upwards of 300 miles long, exclusive of the British Columbia part of it." This great stretch of country has scarcely been nibbled at as yet, and the possibilities of the remainder can only be surmised. There is evidently a future for quartz mining in the country. Mr. Ogilvie speaks of Conehill as richer and more extensive than even the great Treadwell mine in Alaska. It is a peculiarly fitting dispensation that in this region of bitter winters there are extensive coal deposits close at hand. The summer is warm enough and long enough to enable vegetables to be grown.

THE GLOBE EXULTS.

These seem to be the facts in the case, and as Canadians we may congratulate ourselves that this otherwise forbidding outpost of the Dominion promises to add considerably to the national wealth. The officials of the Department of the Interior at Ottawa are entitled to all praise for the promptitude with which they have established the reign of British law and order in that distant region by stationing there a body of the Northwest Mounted Police. There is still an extensive task to be accomplished, however. Wealth such as this is national wealth, and the nation should get some advantage from its exploitation. At present there is a payment of a fee of $15 for each claim located. It is evident, however, that this is inadequate. A system of royalties would undoubtedly best cover the case. The customs arrangements should also be made as perfect as possible. The difficulty of accomplishing all this in a region so remote and so inaccessible is quite apparent, and no one expects that time and space can be annihilated.

A word of warning is also necessary. There is not so much likelihood that a Klondyke craze can be produced at this distance from the scene as has evidently taken hold of the dwellers on the Pacific coast. Nevertheless it is just worth pointing out that the man who goes to that country without the means of keeping himself for a long period courts destruction. He cannot repent and come back whenever he likes. He is apt to be tied up over winter in a place where the merest necessaries of life are held at fabulous prices. The present position of things makes it essential that the gold-seeker should be a capitalist in a small way before he tempts the rigors and deprivations of the arctic circle.

CHAPTER V.

ROMANCE OF THE MINES.

Women at Klondyke — Words of Warning — A Kingdom for a Dog—Crime Made Difficult—Ban Put on Lawyers—Game Driven Away—Not a Paradise—No Place for Dreamers—A Land of Moonshine — A Plucky Woman — The First "Boiled Shirt"—On an Errand of Mercy—Told by a Chicago Woman—The Kings of the Klondyke—A Sanguine Report—To Be No Famine—Eager for News—A Spectacle for the Gods—Not Easy to Get—As She Saw It — The Humorist Is There — Mrs. Healy's Mine—Evidence of Coal—Woman Who Dare—The Barney Barnato of the Klondyke—Faced the Dangers—Pushing Onward—Wanted Gold—For the Woman He Loved—A Remarkable Bridal Trip—Like a Fairy Tale—The Golden Pot—$10,000 Pin Money—Worth $1,000,000 a month—$595 From a Single Pan—Larsford's Good Fortune—Driven to Wealth—After Many Years—Two Dauntless Women—First Over the Chilkoot—Gold Is What They Want—An Alpine Climber—Bloomers and Heavy Skirts.

Dawson City has a population of 2,500, of these only thirty-three are women. Mrs. Tom Lippy is the first woman who crossed the divide and went into the new Klondyke camp. She is a little, lithe, brown-haired woman, with honest brown eyes that have no fear in

MR. CLARENCE J. BERRY.

them. She does not think she did anything remarkable in following her husband where many men are afraid to go. She dresses neatly now and in the latest style, and the only mark of her hard life is the tan, which it will take months to remove. She says:

"I was the first white woman on the creek and the only one in our camp. There was another one mile from us, Mrs. Berry. She was the only white woman I had to speak to while we were at camp. When we got to Eldorado creek we lived in a tent until Mr. Lippy got our log cabin built. It is 12 feet by 8, eight logs high, with mud and moss roof and moss between the chinks, and has a door and window. Mr. Lippy made the furniture—a rough bed, table and some stools. We had a stove—there are plenty of stoves in that country—and that was all we needed. The cabin was cozy and warm. I looked after the housekeeping and Mr. Lippy after the mining.

"Everything we had to eat was canned. Things were canned that I never knew could be canned before. Of course, we missed fresh food dreadfully, but we kept well and strong. We had no fresh milk or meats or fruits or eggs.

"Amusements? Well, nobody bothered much about amusements. Everyone was busy and kept busy all the time. I did my work. Mining is hard work—one doesn't pick gold off the ground. It is genuine toil, and when Mr. Lippy finished he wanted to rest. All men were about alike on that point.

"Fashion? Well, we were not entirely cut off from the fashionable world. People were coming in all the time. We got fashion papers, a few months old, to be sure, but still they kept us fairly up to time. One trader brought some shockingly old-fashioned cloaks

MRS. CLARENCE J. BERRY.

to camp, but we wouldn't look at them. He had to sell them to Indians. I didn't change my way of dressing particularly. I dressed more warmly to suit the climate, and wore fur boots and a cap constantly during the cold weather, but in summer we dressed much as at home."

WORDS OF WARNING.

Miss Anna Fulcomer, a plucky University of Chicago girl, sends home word from the valley of the Yukon. She has been there, under government auspices, a year, living until recently at Circle City. Now she is at Klondyke, whither, like hundreds, she went in hopes of "striking a rich vein," and is apparently convinced that her vision of wealth was a chimera.

Miss Fulcomer has had a rather unusual experience for a woman of refinement and education. She is 28 years old, of Norse descent, and imbued with her race's traditional love of adventure. This is her second trip to Alaska. She went to the Yukon this time to teach an Indian school for the government, to study the natives for the benefit of the Smithsonian Institution, to gather facts for a book, and incidentally to grow richer and older, her fortune to increase out of all proportion to her years.

May 7 she wrote home to her sister, Mrs. L. F. Beach, that there were only six men and three women left in Circle City—the rest had gone in a body to Klondyke—and that she intended to pack up and follow the crowd.

A KINGDOM FOR A DOG.

So she hired a dog for $30—agreeing to pay $75 if anything happened to the animal—and had a man

thrown in for nothing. A few days later she was on the trail of the gold-seeking throng. She was to get half the results of the enterprise. At her last writing —the letter was received in Chicago two days ago— her share was a good deal like Alaskan weather—considerably below zero.

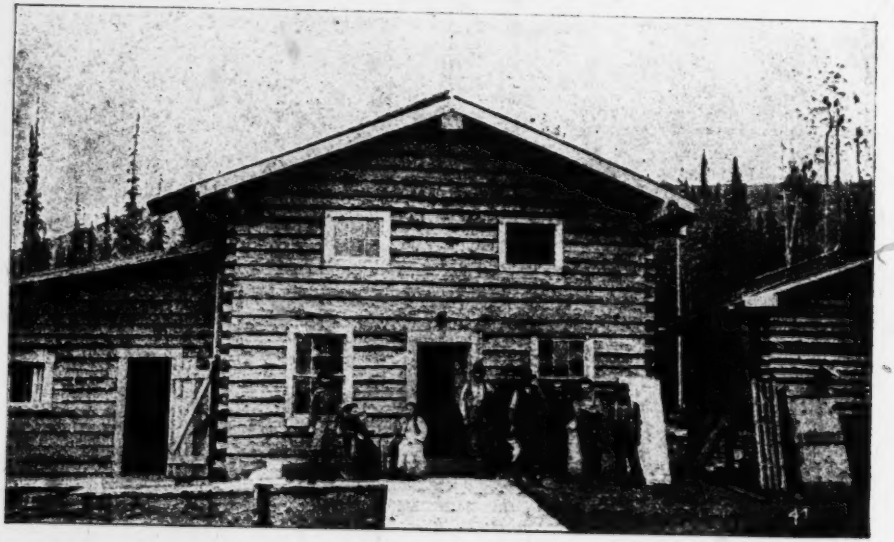
"A dog, a dog, my kingdom for a dog," is the general cry here. Horses have practically proved a failure here as a means of transportation. They have to be housed in tents in which a fire is kept. The dogs, however, live on next to nothing, and often make quite astonishing time. We had a visitor at the house I am living in some time ago who came on a dog sledge eighty miles in nineteen hours without once stopping. Another man came here 240 miles in five days. The relative value placed on men and dogs is shown by the fact that I could get an experienced man for my trip to Klondyke for nothing, but had to pay $30 rental for a dog and had to make a contract to pay $75 if anything happened to the animal. The hopes of hundreds here rest on their ability to get a bob-tailed dog. When I set out on my gold-finding enterprise I found that my case was not an exception."

CRIME MADE DIFFICULT.

Miss Fulcomer gives a good report of the manners and morals of the camps. During her residence of a year at Circle City she knew of no murder being committed and little lawlessness. The miners make a law unto themselves, and all tacitly accept its unwritten mandates.

"One of the peculiar features of the new camp is the lack of shooting, due to the fact that the Canadian

MISSION, FT. SELKIRK.



60-MILE POST.

government does not permit men to carry firearms. Police disarm miners when they enter the district, so that there is not any of the lawlessness and crime which marked early placer mining in California. There is much gambling and play is high.

BAN PUT ON LAWYERS.

"Lawyers and other disturbers of the peace" are kept out, and this is the reason assigned for the quiet and order that prevail.

"The camps are in no sense to be compared with the camps in California during the gold fever there," says Miss Fulcomer. "Their inaccessibility in a large measure protects them from desperate characters. It is a 900-mile trip over the snow from Juneau to the gold fields, and it is a hardy person who would enter upon a trip that none but arctic explorers ordinarily would undertake. The climate, too, makes living out of doors impossible, and it costs money to live under shelter. These conditions, as you will readily understand, help to keep away mere adventurers.

"But it is a dreary place to be side-tracked in. The average miner and prospector is buoyed up by the knowledge that there is gold in abundance on the Yukon, and the hope that he may make a fortune quickly. For the rest of one's personal experience, the less glowing accounts that are given the better."

GAME DRIVEN AWAY.

"Game has been utterly driven from the mountains. Fish are frozen in eight months in the year. Once in a while you can get fresh meat at 50 cents a pound. The fresh meat used at our Christmas dinner, however, cost $19.50 a pound. There was gold enough in the

taste even to make it lie a dead weight on the stomach. You can readily see that an experienced miner here has to be successful in order to live. What would become of a 'tenderfoot' it is easy to imagine. I can see little in store for the man who gets here after or late in August but hardship and privation.

"Of course there will be new and probably large accessions to the population here. Those stricken with the gold fever keep flocking here and the influx of would-be miners will doubtless continue till everything is frozen up so tight that it will be impossible to do anything but hunger, look at the moon and wait for next May. It is to the interest of the transportation companies to encourage this migration of the people north, since they get the transportation money—it costs about $150 to go from Seattle to Klondyke—and besides have a corner on supplies. All who go to the gold fields will have to buy from them. The transportation companies will thus of necessity reap a rich harvest, and the rest—well, they will learn by experience. I think the inexperienced should be warned in the interest of mere humanity. The fact is, the rich grounds are all staked, and the movement of people here should stop till next spring, when such milder weather as we have will make prospecting on new and untried lands possible. Otherwise people will be in a sorry plight."

Miss Fulcomer refers jocosely to the odd figure she cuts in her arctic dress. She sent to Siberia and had three pairs of mukluks, or native fur shoes made. These, with wide, baggy fur trousers, a long fur coat, and a fur cap constitute her outfit.

NOT A PARADISE.

"One of the great causes of suffering here," she says, "is that Americans put on their heaviest clothing almost as soon as they get here. The result is that when regular winter weather sets in and the thermometer gets down to 80 or 90 degrees below zero, they nearly perish. This, with the difficulty of getting good, fresh, wholesome living, makes the Yukon gold region anything but an El Dorado.

"This," Miss Fulcomer explains, "is not because there is not gold at Klondyke—there is gold in abundance, dirt rich enough on some claims to yield from $100 to $500 per pan; but it is mined with difficulty, mined in a small way, mined slowly, so that for the average experienced digger the profits are swallowed up in the expenses. Men who have been mining at other points in Alaska and the British Dominion virtually abandoned their old claims, owing to the craze over Klondyke, hurried there and staked off their claims, and are holding or working them. This was early in the movement, and consequently newcomers have to be content with the leavings of the old men in the work.

NO PLACE FOR DREAMERS.

"I pity the people who come here under the delusion that mining life here is anything comparable with what it was during the gold excitement in California. There are only four mining months—May, June, July and August—and even then the ground never thaws out more than two or two and one-half inches. The rest of the year the soil is like a solid rock. It is no unusual thing for the mercury to fall 90 or 95 degrees below zero. The only way we can raise turnips here

is on the housetops, where they put a liberal coat of soil. The heat from below and the light from above develop the vegetables. To go prospecting before May or after August is out of the question, and in the four months I have named it is a matter of about three hours a day.

A LAND OF MOONSHINE.

"While teaching at Circle City I went to school by the light of the setting moon—that was about 9 o'clock in the morning—and went home at noon by the light of the rising moon. Literally, I have lived in moonlight for the last year. The coldest we had it last winter was 65 degrees below zero, but mild as the weather was—for Alaska—it was quite cold enough to make one feel the need of good, solid food. Apropos of the living here, it is well enough for them to say there is no lack of provisions. Actually the natives and miners haven't the necessaries of life, to say nothing of the comforts. It is impossible to get fresh meat. It is simply a matter of canned goods, and these have to be bought from the trading posts of the Alaska Commercial company or the American Transportation company, at the companies' prices, and they charge what they like. One dollar a pound for flour, saleratus and potatoes is the usual rate."

A PLUCKY WOMAN.

One of the pioneer women gold hunters of the Yukon, Mrs. J. T. Wills of Tacoma, has struck it rich on the Klondyke. Only a few weeks ago she was taking in washing and now she is worth a quarter of a million dollars.

"I have gone through death," she writes to Mrs.

Frank P. Hicks, "and a fight has been made against me to take possession of my claim, but I will stand by my rights if it takes five years."

Mrs. Wills is a woman of iron will. Her husband is a gun and locksmith, and troubled with rheumatism. He could not go out into the frozen north and his wife went for him. For two years she made little money and was almost disheartened, when the Klondyke mines were discovered. She immediately joined a party of cattlemen and hurried to the new diggings, and was among the first to secure claims. She went to work as cook for the Alaska Commercial company's mess at Dawson City and is receiving $15 per day for her services.

THE FIRST "BOILED SHIRT."

While doing washing Mrs. Wills introduced the first "boiled shirt" into the Yukon gold camp and paid $2.50 for the box of starch with which she starched it. Her first assistant in the laundry was a squaw, to whom Mrs. Wills paid $4 a day and board. Her little log cabin cost her $35 a month and her supply of wood for the winter cost $225. A 25-cent washboard cost her six times that amount, and while she made a small fortune washing and baking bread, Mrs. Wills complains that the trading company got most of it. Mrs. Wills parts her hair on the side like a man and is stout and jolly. She is 50 years of age and is industrious and a good business woman.

ON AN ERRAND OF MERCY.

Two Sisters of Mercy, whose destination is the Klondyke gold fields, will soon reach San Francisco. They go on errands of mercy, ready to brave the se-

verities of an Arctic winter. The two young women are coming from Lachine, in the Province of Qeubec. During their sojourn in San Francisco they will be the guests of the Sisters of the Holy Family.

The two travelers belong to the Sisterhood of Saint Anne. They do not expect to be able to go any further than St. Michael's this year. There are already thirteen Sisters of the order of Saint Anne in Alaska, some at St. Michael's, others at Holy Cross and St. Joseph, and the remainder at Circle City.

At the latter place there is a hospital under the care of the Sisters and to this institution the two Sisters who are to arrive to-morrow will go. The intention of the order is to increase the number of Sisters at Circle City, feeling sure that, with the great influx of miners to the Yukon territory, their services will be required.

TOLD BY A CHICAGO WOMAN.

Mrs. Eli Gage, wife of the son of the Secretary of the Treasury, came from St. Michael's on the ship that brought the Klondyke argonauts from Alaska. It is more than likely that she will return this year or early next spring to join her husband, who is the steamship manager at the port.

"It is almost impossible to tell how much money the Portland brought into the States," she says. "The boat was filled with returning miners and prospectors and the smallest deposit made in the ship's safe was for $15,000. There were many others—so many that the captain's room was like the treasure store of a king. It was literally filled with gold in all forms, and while I sat in the midst of the wealth it occurred to me that the old trade of buccaneering had missed a rare chance in not waiting by the sea road for this load of gold.

THE KINGS OF THE KLONDYKE.

"This ship had on board the greatest of the fortune finders. Frank Phiscator, who went from lower Michigan, had $96,000. This I know to be a fact, as I saw the metal. Clarence J. Berry had more yet, and a man named Clements seemed to have a wagon full. These three men and one other were wise before they left the river. They bought all the claims they could get, and it might be said that they are the kings of the Bonanza, the El Dorado and the other of the best known creeks. It is not possible for any human being to calculate how much they are worth.

"The country is enormously rich. The present gold diggings are only a very small part of it, and there is little doubt that there are millions only waiting for the miners to come and dig out. The men from the Klondyke are not the men to exaggerate, for I have talked with people whom I know to be truthful."

In glowing terms Mrs. Gage praises the people who are there, and says the reports are not in the least exaggerated.

Mrs. Gage went to Dawson to see her husband, who is the representative of Mr. Weare's company at Dawson. She investigated the Klondyke region and comes back to Chicago full of enthusiasm about the territory. During her stay she had every opportunity to see exactly what the situation was, and had it not been for her relatives and her baby, which she could not take with her on account of the intense severity of the climate, she would probably not have returned until next spring. She was happy in the strange land and withstood the cold wonderfully well.

A SANGUINE REPORT.

Mrs. Gage says there is a wonderful quantity of gold in the Yukon field and any man who has $500 for "grub staking" a claim need have no fear in going to the Klondyke region in hopes of a rich harvest, for he is sure of gaining it.

Even though a man go poorly equipped and supplied, he rarely receives poor treatment from the hands of his neighbors, and may find plenty of work to do which will enable him to earn from $15 to $17 per day.

Mrs. Gage speaks well of the people who make up the population, dwelling on the fact that they are a class who may be trusted, and that they form a desirable community. The valley of the Yukon is not populated with such men as constitute a large part of the western mining camps.

TO BE NO FAMINE.

One thing Mrs. Gage particularly emphasizes. It is that there is absolutely no truth in the report of famine. It has been said starvation would overtake many who went to Alaska this fall, but Mrs. Gage is firm in her belief that enough supplies are being taken from Seattle and San Francisco by the two trading companies in Alaska.

"Those in charge of the business of these concerns," she said, "are making ample preparations for the coming winter. They fear no famine, and the individual miners are taking advice and are already supplying themselves with necessities. There is gold enough in Alaska for everyone."

CANOES AND INDIAN VILLAGE, LITANYA BAY.

GROUP OF ESQUIMAUX, ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND.

EAGER FOR NEWS.

"I left Seattle for Alaska May 26," she said, "and not until July 3 did I board the Portland, one of the three ocean steamers of the North American Trading and Transportation company, which left St. Michael's on the return for Seattle. I was aboard the Portland two weeks, reaching Seattle July 17. While there, as well as all the way home to Chicago, everyone appeared wonderfully interested in the region from which I had just come, and when it became known that I had just arrived from Alaska I had actually to hide in the drawing-room of the train. People in Seattle were wild with excitement when the Portland reached there, as it was the first boat from the scene of the great discoveries, although the Alaska Commercial company's boat had reached San Francisco, its port, before that date.

A SPECTACLE FOR THE GODS.

"Four great Alaskan miners came down with us, and a more than interesting sight was to go down into the great safe on the ship and see the bags of gold dust. There have been many fortunes found in Alaska, yet there is gold enough to satisfy everyone.

"Mr. Gage is at Dawson and will not return until spring. He is constantly busy and likes the life. Since my arrival in Seattle I heard that a man whom he had 'grub staked' has dug up gold worth $35,000 in three months on a small claim. If a man goes out there without money he can very soon earn it, for wages paid, even for common labor, in all the region range from $15 to $17 per day.

"I am almost sure I shall return to the Yukon valley to spend the winter. The last boat sails from Seattle August 28. The only thing to keep me is, I can't

take my baby on account of the cold. As for myself, I am not afraid, for it is such a dry cold that one hardly feels it. Women are always safe in the Yukon. Although beer and wine are sold, the men are rarely disorderly."

NOT EASY TO GET.

"Men who go to Alaska for gold ought to be warned that they are not going to get it easily. It comes at the risk of life and in the face of possible absolute failure. I do not think there is any danger from a famine up there this winter, as the steamship companies have prepared abundantly all the ports with supplies. I am not quite decided whether to go back this year or wait until spring. Mr. Gage and the steamship people cannot think of taking a vacation at this time. They are driven hard to take care of the rush of prospectors. Seattle is simply insane over the reports from the north, and men are using desperate means to get enough money to start for the field.

"There need be no doubt as to the truth of the stories of great wealth found in a few months. I saw the best of it myself, and the Portland was fairly weighted down with the treasure."

Mrs. Gage is young and not of large stature. She says her health was never better than when in Alaska.

AS SHE SAW IT.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Mellor, superintendent of the United States Indian Training school at Unalaska, Alaska, has just returned with six Indian girls, who will be educated as missionaries. Miss Mellor arrived at Seattle on the steamer Portland July 17.

The hardships in the Northwestern gold region, she

says, are terrible. Summers are short, winters are long, and the supply of food and clothing inadequate.

"When I left flour was selling at the rate of $50 a sack, and if the luxury of eggs was indulged in the consumers paid $4 per dozen. Then it must be remembered that each egg of the twelve was not what a Pennsylvania farmer would consider freshly laid. Clothing is also hard to obtain and is high in price, the majority of the gold seekers wearing clothes made of coarse woolen blankets."

THE HUMORIST IS THERE.

"When the 'chechockoes'—newcomers from the outside world—reached Klondyke this spring, many of them were told that on another creek a strike equal to Klondyke had been made. So they started over the mountains, through snow and water, most of them packing their blankets and 'grub' on their backs—only to find that they had been 'jobbed' (a joke gotten off at their expense), with no foundation to the rumor.

"This seems heartless and cruel, and it is, but just such 'put-up jobs' are continually going the rounds of the camps.

"Last winter a miner on Birch creek was told of some terrible thing that had happened in Circle City, closely relating to his affairs. He immediately left off panning out gold to make a forced tramp to town through deep snow, and thermometer 40 degrees below zero—only to find it a put-up job. Many of the jokes are harmless, the work of loafers around saloons."

MRS. HEALY'S MINE.

Opposite Klondyke river, in the rocky cliffs that project into the Yukon, is the pioneer quartz mine of

Wood's Old Book Store
515 Eleventh St., Oakland, Cal.
Old and New Books and Music Bought
Sold and Exchanged.

the country. At this point what is known as the great copper belt crosses the river, and a year or two ago Capt. Healy of the North American Transportation and Trading company made a location on a ledge after a very superficial examination of it. Quartz mines were held in no esteem at that time, and after a little while he forgot the circumstance and let the time expire that is allowed by law for working the first assessment. The next season he was making a trip on the company's boat to Sixty-Mile, in company with Mrs. Healy, when in passing the place he recalled the circumstances and stopped to take another look at it.

"It's good-looking rock," said the captain, "but I don't think I will bother with it. There will be plenty of time for considering quartz."

"Aren't you going to claim it?" asked Mrs. Healy.

"No, I don't care to bother with it—not now."

"If you don't want it I do. I will locate it and pay for the assessment work."

"Well, it's your mine then."

And so Mrs. Healy re-located it and they set a man to work out the first assessment, and took samples of the ore. Mrs. Healy named it the Four-Leaf Clover, so if anyone sees it quoted in the mining exchanges, away up pretty high, he may know it is her mine.

They gave the samples to the assayer and they show from $8 to $16 to the ton in gold, in addition to a good percentage in copper. The vein is eighty feet wide.

EVIDENCE OF COAL.

In all the country from the Hootalinqua to the Yukon flats is much evidence of the existence of coal. A little work has been done in developing a deposit

near Five Finger rapids, but as yet it is too remote from any settlement to find a market, even if it has proved to be of good quality. Wood is so plentiful adjacent to all the towns of the interior that no one has thought it worth while to offer any other fuel. There is little doubt that coal will be found in abundance when there arises a demand for it.

WOMEN WHO DARE.

Rev. Father Stippeck, who has been stationed at Circle City for years, arrived in Chicago, shortly ago, and talking of the hardships of travel in Alaska yesterday he strongly advocated the Dyea route. He says those who go round by way of St. Michael's and up the Yukon will find the trip will take much longer than they expect. Father Stippeck will return to Alaska in a few days, taking with him five sisters. The trip will take from two to three months.

Thirteen women left Seattle on the last steamer for Alaska and more are preparing to go. Chicago will be well represented in this respect, although transportation agents do not look with favor upon women and discourage them in every way possible. Mrs. Hilmer Chase, wife of the manager of the Cook excursionists, will accompany her husband to Dawson and will spend the winter there. Others who have declared their intention to seek dame fortune in the Alaska El Dorado are Miss Pauline Kellogg of West Congress street, Mrs. C. W. Romney of Windsor Park and Mrs. Romley. The latter admits having passed the half century mark, but she is full of life and energy and willing to face any kind of hardship to gain an opportunity to get rich in a few months.

THE BARNEY BARNATO OF THE KLONDYKE.

Clarence J. Berry is the Barney Barnato of the Klondyke. He took $130,000 from the top dirt of one of his claims in five months. He kept it all but $22,000, which he paid to his miners. He did not have to give his wife even so much as pin money. She had a pan of her own. She would occasionally get time from her sewing and mending to drop around to the dump. She lifted out $10,000 or so in her spare moments. This was her amusement in the strangest year's honeymoon that is recorded. The two started fifteen months ago as bride and groom. She was the devoted sweetheart of a poor Fresno farmer. They have returned to San Francisco with all kinds of gold dust, nuggets and coin. They have millions in sight, and behind the millions is a pretty romance.

FACED THE DANGERS.

Berry was a fruit raiser in the Southern part of California. He did not have any money. There was no particular prospect that he would ever have any. He saw a life of hard plodding for a bare living. There was no opportunity at home for getting ahead, and, like other men of the far West, he only dreamed of the day when he would make a strike and get his million. This was three years ago. There had then come down from the frozen lands of Alaska wonderful stories of rewards for men brave enough to run a fierce ride with death from starvation and cold. He had nothing to lose and all to gain. He concluded to face the dangers. His capital was $40. He proposed to risk it all—not very much to him now, but a mighty sight three years ago. It took all but $5 to get him to Ju-

neau. He had two big arms, the physique of a giant and the courage of an explorer. Presenting all these as his only collaterals, he managed to squeeze a loan of $60 from a man who was afraid to go with him, but was willing to risk a little in return for a promise to pay back the advance at a fabulous rate of interest.

PUSHING ONWARD.

Juneau was alive with men three years ago who had heard from the Indians the yarns of gold without limit. The Indians brought samples of the rock and sand and did well in trading them. A party of forty men banded to go back with the Indians. Berry was one of the forty. Each had an outfit—a year's mess of frozen meat and furs. It was early spring when this first batch of prospectors started out over the mountains, and the snow was as deep as the cuts in the sides of the hills. The natives packed the stuff to the top of the Chilkoot pass. It was life and death every day. The men were left one by one along the cliffs.

WANTED GOLD.

The timid turned back. The whole outfit of supplies went down in Lake Bennett. The forty men had dwindled to three—Berry and two others. The others chose to make the return trip for more food. Berry wanted gold. He borrowed a chunk of bacon and pushed on. He reached Forty-Mile creek within a month. There was not a cent in his pocket. The single chance for him was work with those more prosperous. His pay was $100 a month. It was not enough, and, looking for better pay, he drifted from one end of the gulch to the other, always keeping his shrewd eye open for a chance to fix a claim of his

own. There was a slump in the prospects of the district and he concluded to go back to the world.

FOR THE WOMAN HE LOVED.

The slump was not the only reason. There was a young woman back in Fresno who had promised to be his wife. Berry came from the hidden world without injury and Miss Ethel D. Bush kept her pledge. They were married.

Berry told his bride about the possibilities of Alaska. She was a girl of the mountains. She said she had not married him to be a drawback, but a companion. If he intended or wanted to go back to the El Dorado, she proposed to go with him. She reasoned that he would do better to have her at his side. His pictures of the dangers and the hardships had no effect upon her. It was her duty to face as much as he was willing to face. They both decided it was worth the try—success at a bound rather than years of common toil. Berry declared he knew exactly where he could find a fortune. Mrs. Berry convinced him that she would be worth more to him in his venture than any man that ever lived. Furthermore, the trip would be a bridal tour which would certainly be new and far from the beaten tracks of sighing lovers.

A REMARKABLE BRIDAL TRIP.

Mr. and Mrs. Berry reached Juneau fifteen months ago. They had but little capital, but they had two hearts that were full of determination. They took the boat to Dyea, the head of navigation. The rest of the distance—and distances in Alaska are long—was made behind a team of dogs. They slept under a tent on beds of boughs. Mrs. Berry wore garments which

CAMP LIFE

TRADING SCENE ON LAKE LE BARGE.

resembled very much those of her husband. They came over her feet like old-fashioned sandals, and did not stop at her knees. They were made of seal fur, with the fur inside. She pulled gum boots over these. Her skirts were very short. Her feet were in moccasins, and over her shoulders was a fur robe. The hood was of bearskin. This all made a very heavy garment, but she heroically trudged along with her husband, averaging about fifteen miles each day. They reached Forty-Mile creek a year ago in June, three months after they were married. They called it their wedding trip.

LIKE A FAIRY TALE.

Klondyke was still a good way off, and it was thought at first that the claims closer at hand would pay. One day a miner came tearing into the settlement with most wonderful tales of the region further on. His descriptions were like fairy tales from "Arabian Nights"—accounts fitting accurately the scenes in spectacular plays, where the nymph or queen of fancy land bids her slaves to pick up chunks of gold as big as the crown of a hat. Berry told the tale to his wife. She said she would stay at the post while he went to the front. There was no rest that night in the camp. Men were rushing out pellmell, bent on nothing but getting first into the valley of the Klondyke and establishing claims. Mrs. Berry worked with her husband with might and main, and before daylight he was on the road over the pass. There were fifty long miles between him and fortune, and he worked without sleep or rest to beat the great field which started with him. He made the track in two days. He was among the first in. He staked

claim 40, above the Discovery, which means that his property was the fortieth one above the first Aladdin. It was agreed that each claim should have 500 feet on the river—the Bonanza. This was the beginning of Berry's fortune. He then began to trade for interests in other sites. He secured a share in three of the best on El Dorado creek. There is no one living who can tell how much this property is worth. It has only been worked in the crudest way, yet five months netted him enough to make him a rich man the rest of his life. There are untold and inestimable millions where the small sum from the top was taken.

THE GOLDEN POT.

Berry wanted to bring his bride to him from the settlement and he proceeded to build himself a house. It was made of logs. He built it solid and then sawed holes for the doors and windows. This was late last summer. The thermometer was getting accustomed to standing at 40 degrees below zero day in and out. Mrs. Berry trudged through the nineteen miles of hard snow and took her place in the hut with her husband. There was no floor, but the snow bank. It cost the couple $300 a thousand feet to get firewood hauled and there was but little chance to use fuel save to thaw out the moose and caribou which the Indians peddled. The bride and groom kept warm by cuddling—a thing somewhat unknown in civilized communities, but absolutely necessary with the mercury disappearing in the bulb, and wood worth its weight in gold. They endured all the hardships without complaining, since by this time they knew they had reached the golden pot at the tip of the rainbow.

$10,000 PIN MONEY.

Mr. Berry has taken a trip with his wife to see the farm where he used to raise plums and peaches. He is going to buy the place, just for memory's sake. Mrs. Berry wants it. She will live there the rest of her life. The pin money she panned out —$10,000—is to go for a new house. She has had enough of the Klondyke. Her new king and the new gold king of the coast will go back in the spring. There is no chance that his property will be jumped or robbed. He has left it in trusted hands. Berry talks in immense figures. It is possible to deduct half as a tribute to blinded enthusiasm, and he will then have enough to rate him among the very richest men of the world.

WORTH $1,000,000 A MONTH.

Berry gives all the credit of his fortune to his young wife. It was possible for her to have kept him at home, after the first trip. She told him to return—and she returned with him. It was an exhibition of rare courage, but rare courage rarely fails. The wedding trip lasted about fifteen months. Berry says it was worth $1,000,000 a month. This estimate is one measured in cold cash—not sentiment.

$595 FROM A SINGLE PAN.

This new gold king and queen made the first strike of a year ago in November. They were working along El Dorado creek, a branch of the Bonanza, which empties into the Klondyke about two miles above Dawson City. Their site was the fifth one above where the first discovery had been made in this particular region. It took nearly a month to get into

paying dirt, but when the vein was opened it was simply awful. The first prospect panned $2 and $3 to the pan. It grew suddenly to $25 and $50 a pan, and kept increasing. It seemed they had tapped a mint, and one day Mr. and Mrs. Berry gathered no less than $595 from a single pan of earth. This they have saved in a sack by itself, and the people who have listened to the strange stories of the young man and his young wife have no fear that they have been mistaken. They have left no room to think they are not telling the truth—truth which seems probable in the face of sacks and lumps of gold which they have not yet had time to send to market. They have it piled up in their rooms in the hotel in San Francisco.

GAISFORD'S GOOD FORTUNE.

Heart-broken by a wayward wife, a Tacoma barber eighteen months ago buried himself from the world in Alaska, and to-day is sole owner of a Klondyke placer valued at $1,000,000.

Already the barber has scraped $50,000 out of his claim, and has been at work on it only a few days.

All his people live here, and they rejoice exceedingly at Ulry Gaisford's good fortune.

Gaisford has always been industrious, and, although his barber shop was on a side street, he managed to make a good living, and saved enough to warrant him in getting married.

Then his troubles began; his wife was untrue, and disgraced him in the eyes of his people.

When he could no longer stand the humiliation caused by her conduct, he told her to get a divorce, or else he would, as he had positive proof of her unfaithfulness.

She had no funds, and he furnished the money himself with which to secure a legal separation.

DRIVEN TO WEALTH.

Then Ulry left the woman who had wrecked his life to continue her wayward career and he hurried away to Alaska, not caring where he went so long as he could be away from those who knew of his domestic troubles.

But ill-luck followed Ulry, even into the wilds of Alaska, for while he and his companions were navigating the Pelly river they were shipwrecked and lost all their provisions and clothing. They had absolutely nothing left, aside from the clothes they had on their backs.

All became disheartened except Ulry, and returned to civilization.

Ulry pressed on.

For a time he worked in a sawmill, and last winter he set up a little barber shop in Circle City, and by his thrift succeeded in saving a little money.

When the spring of 1896 opened he turned his hand to logging on the Yukon, and while thus engaged left his logs for a few days to file a claim on the Klondyke. Last fall he went into the new El Dorado and worked industriously through the winter, with the result that he had $50,000 in nuggets by last June.

AFTER MANY YEARS.

There is a romance connected with the history of Joseph Ladue, the returned Klondyke millionaire miner. Many years ago he became enamored of Miss Anna Mason, the charming daughter of prosperous parents, residing at Schuyler Falls, Clinton county, N. Y., and they were engaged to be married.

The parents of the young woman objected on account of Ladue's lack of financial resources, and he went out to the Black Hills during the mining craze in that region. He was lucky and struck it rich. He corresponded with his sweetheart, and at last he thought he had enough money to return and claim his bride. Leaving the mines, he tarried at Deadwood, was enticed into a gambling game, and his fortune passed into the pockets of sharpers. He wrote his affianced and told her the facts, adding that he was going to Alaska to make another fortune and hoped she would wait for him. Correspondence was kept up and the young woman remained constant to her faithful and adventurous lover. When he visited his old home two years ago he was already prosperous, but he was not satisfied with his accumulations, and it was decided to postpone the marriage awhile longer.

He returned to his sawmill and trading post on the Yukon, and when the rich gold discoveries there brought him wealth beyond what he had dreamed of, he shaped matters as soon as possible to return and fulfill his long engagement. The parents are satisfied with his worldly prospects at last, and the wedding was celebrated at Schuyler Falls lately. That quiet hamlet was in a fever of excitement over the nuptials which crowned this romance in real life.

TWO DAUNTLESS WOMEN.

Undaunted by the lateness of the season or of the perilous journey incident to reaching the gold fields of Alaska, Mrs. M. L. D. Keiser of Jacksonville, Ill., and her niece, Miss Georgie Osborne of the same city, will leave Chicago for the Klondyke regions. Accompanied by a friend, W. D. Mitchell, also of Jack-

sonville, the two women will travel to Seattle, Wash., taking the evening train of the Chicago and Northwestern road to Omaha, where a short stop will be made. Once in Seattle, they will make another stop of a week and then start for the Chilkoot pass.

Mrs. Keiser is well known in Chicago. Capt. John Keiser of St. Louis is her brother. She has traveled around the world and is accustomed to mountain climbing and especially to mountains of the glacier type. She is a strong, healthy-looking woman, while Miss Osborne is delicate, and does not look robust enough to withstand the hardships of the trip.

FIRST OVER THE CHILKOOT.

To Mrs. Keiser and her niece, will, it is more than probable, belong the honor of having been the first women to traverse the Chilkoot pass almost unattended. Although both are essentially feminine in tastes and habits, they do not fear to undertake the journey, which abounds in hardships which many men would fear to undergo.

Leaving Chicago, they will stop in Omaha for two days. They will in Seattle be joined by Mr. Mitchell. The majority of their supplies have been purchased and nothing but two boats and a sled will be bought in Seattle.

They visited a number of the stores in Chicago, and with the advice of friends secured their outfits. After leaving Seattle they will exchange their dainty tailor-made traveling suits for a garb suitable for the regions they expect to traverse, and the garments of civilization will be left behind for a year at least. They will leave their dresses in Seattle, to be called for after they have "struck it rich."

In an interview Mrs. Keiser and her niece said they would traverse the Chilkoot pass on foot and at the end of the journey over the snow and ice take boats down Lake Linderman and thence to the famous Yukon. They will shoot the rapids and encounter en route many of the dangers of mountain climbing. The boats which they will use are to be built by the guide and courier who will accompany them. Mr. Mitchell's wife was to have joined the party, but her mother, Mrs. Carter of Jacksonville, objects to her going. Mr. Mitchell expects to do the cooking and build the log cabin after they have reached the desired spot.

GOLD IS WHAT THEY WANT.

With the exception of his services the women will look after themselves. Both are by no means ignorant of the hardships which await them. Mrs. Keiser says she is going both for the trip and in the hope of striking a rich mine. Gold is what they want, she says, and if hard work and plenty of courage will secure it they will return to the United States wealthy women.

"Of course it will be hard," said Miss Osborne in discussing her trip last evening, "but we are prepared for whatever may happen and expect to get along all right. Our outfit will include everything considered necessary for the trip and we are both pretty courageous. We are going out in the hope of getting rich, and do not expect any easy time. Shall we mine ourselves? Well, that is as it may be, but we expect to do so, as we have the tools with us. I do not see why we should not. I am looking for gold, and the only way to get it is to work. No, I am not

afraid of the journey, and am anxious to be off."

AN ALPINE CLIMBER.

"I do not want the papers to make us out women who are seeking notoriety," said Mrs. Keiser. We are going to Alaska with the idea of striking gold. I think anyone foolish not to take at least $1,000 with him, so that if he does not strike gold he will be able to return and still live. We shall not be back before June at least, and maybe not then. I have traveled around the world and have climbed the Alps, so know something of what to expect. I would much rather nothing was said about the matter. We both live in Jacksonville, and have many letters from well-known men in this country."

Mrs. Keiser is about 40 years old, and is considered wealthy by her friends. She is refined in appearance and manners and is well educated. She is still considered a handsome woman. Miss Osborne is a slender, dark-eyed girl of 22 years, pretty and graceful, and seems hardly to possess a physique sufficiently hardy to withstand the rigors of the Klondyke.

BLOOMERS AND HEAVY SKIRTS.

The outfit which the women have secured is complete. They have been lavish and thoughtful. The warmest and heaviest underwear possible has been gotten, together with footwear exceptionally heavy and strong. Thick woolen hosiery and gloves, leggings and furs, along with fur hoods and sleeping bags of heavy and close canvas lined with sheepskin and well padded are contained in the collection. Blankets of the best and heaviest material have been provided. Their outer costumes will consist of bodices, bloom-

ers and heavy skirts of brown cloth well lined and topped by double-breasted Eton jackets of thick material. Their arms will be covered by two extra pairs of well-lined sleeves, besides the outer coat and sweater. The question of getting into the sweaters is causing the women some worry, but Mrs. Keiser says they will come in handy and be a great comfort.

"I presume that we will have no trouble with them," she said, "and I believe they are the correct articles to take along. We will be away from society and what we wear no one will make remarks about."

Miss Osborne expressed herself as being in complete ignorance in regard to the mode of wearing a Chicago sweater, but she says they will be warm and bring comfort, and that is all she wants.

"We will wear woolen garments and short skirts—no frills about them, you know," she said with a smile. "We would put on our short dresses right here in Chicago, but we do not want to be pointed out as the two women who are going to dig for gold. We have 1,000 pounds of provisions for each member of the party, which we expect will last us a year. I do not think we will be homesick and I hope to return to Chicago in good health and with a good supply of the treasure of the Yukon."

CHAPTER VI.

Life at Dawson City.

A Typical Mining Town—What it Costs to Live—A Store Price List—The Price of Luxuries—Bloomers Not Wanted—Cupid Smiles on Bridget—Where the Mosquito Hunts—Capt. Healy's Views—To the Klondyke on a Wheel—As a Means of Transport—Round About Dawson—Pay Dirt at Eldorado—$500,000 for 500 feet—A Big Nugget—Present Dangers—Wages and Outlay—Getting Rich in a Hurry—In Behalf of Law and Order—Need of Outside Communication—Now for a Loan Agency—What Miners Wear—Strange Mining Methods—How the Gold Is Distinguished—Work for All—Scurvy the Chief Trouble.

This newly established town of shacks, log cabins and would-be millionaires, is situated on the Klondyke river, where it empties into the Yukon, and promises to be one of the chief placer gold-mining camps of the world.

Inspector Strickland of the Canadian mounted police, who came down from Alaska on the Portland, says:

"When I left Dawson City there were 800 claims staked out. We can safely say that there was about $1,500,000 in gold mined last winter. The wages in the mines were $15 a day, and the sawmill paid laborers $10 a day.

"The claims now staked out will afford employment to about 5,000 men, I believe. If a man is strong, healthy and wants work he can find employment at good wages. Several men worked on an interest, or what is termed a "lay," and during the winter realized $5,000 to $10,000 each. The mines are thirty-five to 100 miles from the Alaska boundary."

WHAT IT COSTS TO LIVE.

Living is high now, as may be seen from these quotations of prices: Flour, $12 per hundredweight. Following are prices per pound: Moose ham, $1; caribou meat, 65 cents; beans, 10; rice, 25; sugar, 25; bacon, 40; potatoes, 25; turnips, 15; coffee, 50; dried fruits, 35; tea, $1; tobacco, $1.50; butter, a roll, $1.50; eggs, a dozen, $1.50; salmon, each, $1 to $1.50; canned fruits, 50 cents; canned meats, 75; liquors, per drink, 50; shovels, $2.50; picks, $5; coal oil, per gallon, $1; overalls, $1.50; underwear, per suit, $5 to $7.50; shoes, $5; rubber boots, $10 to $15.

Miners who reach here do not act like people who have suddenly jumped from poverty to comparative wealth. They are very level headed. They go to the best hotels and live on the fat of the land, but they do not throw money away, and no one starts in to paint the town red.

They have to work so hard that they appreciate the value of money. What they delight in most are theaters and other amusements. They say no one knows how to enjoy these if he has not spent a year in Alaska. Three-quarters of the miners will return in the spring, when they are well rested.

A STORE PRICE LIST.

To give an accurate idea of the cost of living in Dawson City, the price list of a general store there is herewith given:

Flour, per 10 pounds	$12.00
Moose ham, per pound	1.00
Caribou meat, per pound	.65
Beans, per pound	.10
Rice, per pound	.25
Sugar, per pound	.25
Bacon, per pound	.40
Butter, per roll	1.50
Eggs, per dozen	1.50
Better eggs, per dozen	2.00
Salmon, each	$1 to 1.50
Potatoes, per pound	.25
Turnips, per pound	.15
Tea, per pound	1.00
Coffee, per pound	.50
Dried fruits, per pound	.35
Canned fruits	.50
Canned meats	.75
Lemons, each	.20
Oranges, each	.50
Tobacco, per pound	1.50
Liquors, per drink	.50
Shovels	2.50
Picks	5.00
Coal oil, per gallon	1.00
Overalls	1.50
Underwear, per suit	$5 to 7.50
Shoes	5.00
Rubber boots	$10 to 15.00

THE PRICE OF LUXURIES.

Drinks are 50 cents up there, and more than 20,000 gallons of whisky are being taken in. Returned miners say that when they left, some of the saloons

were taking in $1,000 to $2,000 a day. A hair cut costs $1.

There are several public resorts in Dawson—each with a bar in front, gambling tables in the rear and a dancing floor in the middle. Yukon has struck the typical early mining camp pace. Faro and poker are the favorite means for parting with gold dust. One hears of games with $20 ante and $50 to call blind. They don't have money in circulation.

"There is no such thing as money. When you go in just leave your sack at the bar and say, 'Give me five hundred' or 'Give me a thousand,' and get your chips," explained a Yukoner. "Then if you lose you can call for what you want, and it's just put down, and when you get through they weigh out what you owe. I have seen fellows go in with $50,000 they had cleaned up and go out with an empty sack and go to work again."

JOSEPH LA DUE'S HOME.

BLOOMERS NOT WANTED.

Women who have drifted in from the coast recently received an odd rebuke from Capt. Constantine of the territorial police. The women naturally put on bloomers in coming over the mountains, and when they got on the other side they continued to wear bloomers altogether. Bloomers were more than Capt. Constantine would stand, and he gave orders that if the bloomers did not go the wearers would. Regardless of this drawback, the women of hardy stock are besieging the gold fields and will probably before long enlighten the territorial police to a realizatiion of what the "new woman" and the "bloomer girl" can accomplish.

CUPID SMILES ON BRIDGET.

P. B. Weare of the North American Transportation company says some women do well in the Klondyke region. A year ago he and Mrs. Weare rejoiced in the possession of a cook, whose name was Bridget. One day Bridget announced her intention of going to Alaska. Mr. Weare remonstrated, "You can't mine," he said. "That's true," answered the woman, "but there's them that can."

A woman of stylish appearance and haughty demeanor swished her silken skirts past the admiring office boy in Mr. Weare's office recently and extended a primrose-gloved hand to the stout man who sat at the desk. Looking up he recognized his old cook.

She told him that before she had got fifty miles up the Yukon she had received 125 proposals of marriage and that she had held off until an engaging compatriot with a Kerry brogue and a mine that panned out at the rate of $50,000 a month swore that he could not live without her. "I am now on my way to Eu-

rope," said Bridget, "and I thought I'd like to see you as I went through. You mind what I told you when I left?"

WHERE THE MOSQUITO HUNTS.

The Yukon mosquito is king of his tribe. He actually hunts and kills bears along that mighty river. This is told and pictured by no less an authority than Lieut. Schwatka in his well-known published account of his exploration of the Yukon a number of years ago. Bears under stress of hunger sometimes come down to the river in mosquito season, and are attacked by swarms of insects, which sting them about the eyes so that they go blind and die of starvation. A prominent Yukon miner said that the mosquito had been known to bite through a thick moose skin mitten.

CAPT. HEALY'S VIEWS.

The latest letter from Capt. Jno. J. Healy, now at Dawson, estimates that the season's output in the Klondyke district will surely exceed $5,000,000, and he says that if the laborers who started last spring reach the mining country in time the output will exceed $10,000,000. In addition to this, he says, the output at Circle City and Fort Cudahy, in the American territory, will exceed $2,000,000.

Labor, says Captain Healy, commands $15 a day at the best mines. Wages were so tempting that the entire crews of the steamers John J. Healy and P. B. Weare, deserted to go to the mines, and their places had to be filled with Indians.

TO THE KLONDYKE ON A WHEEL.

One of the most novel of the many schemes to obtain a share of the wealth of the Klondyke region

YAKUTAT.

CAUGHT IN THE ICE.

has been developed by a syndicate of four wealthy New York business men, who are planning to establish trading posts and stores in the mining camps and also to purchase all promising claims on the market. The syndicate will transport their men and supplies to the gold fields on a bicycle specially designed for the purpose. The members of the syndicate prefer that their names shall not be made public. They have no stock to sell and will furnish all the money required themselves. Their attorney is Henry F. Granger, of 45 Broadway.

As Mr. Granger outlined the plan, the enterprise will be undertaken on an extensive scale. He will meet a mining expert in Seattle and will dispatch him at once to the gold fields, well supplied with money to buy up all the promising claims in the market. The attorney will also talk with returning miners and gather all the information obtainable. If it is possible to buy or charter freight steamers on the Pacific coast at anything like their true value he will invest in two or three. If the transportation companies have got control of all available vessels, however, they will be bought here on his return and dispatched at once around the Horn. They will be loaded with a general cargo of dry goods, clothing, provisions, tools, whisky and tobacco, and, in fact, everything that a miner needs, and their destination will be Juneau.

ALSO A MEANS OF TRANSPORT.

Then the Klondyke bicycle comes into play. It will be used to transport supplies over the 700 miles between Juneau and the old fields by the Chilcoot pass trail. Every miner who goes to the gold fields must take with him about 1,000 pounds of supplies,

and the only way to transport it is for him to carry it on his back. The most that a man can carry for any distance is 200 pounds. The method now in vogue is to carry one load about five miles, hide it so that it will not be destroyed by animals, and then go back for another load. In this tedious way the goods are finally transported to their destinations.

The Klondyke bicycle is specially designed to carry freight, and is in reality a four-wheeled vehicle and a bicycle combined. It is built very strongly and weighs about fifty pounds. The tires are of solid rubber, one and a half inches in diameter. The frame is the ordinary diamond, of steel tubing, built, however, more for strength than appearance, and wound with rawhide, shrunk on, to enable the miners to handle it with comfort in low temperatures. From each side of the top bar two arms of steel project, each arm carrying a smaller wheel, about fourteen inches in diameter, which, when not in use, can be folded up inside the diamond frame.

Devices for packing large quantities of material are attached to the handle bars and rear forks, and the machine, it is estimated, will carry 500 pounds. The plan is to load it with half the miner's equipment and drag it on four wheels ten miles or so. Then the rider will fold up the side wheels, ride it back as a bicycle, and bring on the rest of the load.

ROUND ABOUT DAWSON.

Fourteen miles from Dawson City, twelve miles up Bonanza creek, which empties into the Klondyke river one and one-half miles from the Yukon, gold was discovered by "Siwash" George Carmack and his two Indian brothers-in-law last August. The credit

for the discovery really belongs to the Indians. A stampede from Circle City, Forty-Mile and other camps was the result of this find, but few had much faith in the new region. Many after they were on the ground, and in spite of the rich prospects on the surface it was generally regarded as a "grub-stake" strike on which one might succeed in getting a winter outfit. A little later, however, the prospects found on the river called forth the half-skeptical remark that "if it goes down it is the greatest thing on earth." Then a few began to believe in the new diggings, but many old miners even yet would not stake out claims, thinking the creek too wide for gold. A number of side gulches along the Bonanza were staked, among them El Dorado, which was rich in gravel near the mouth. But so little faith was manifested in the region that claim holders could not get "grub" from the stores in exchange for their prospects. There was a general fear that these might be only "skim diggings."

PAY DIRT AT EL DORADO.

In December bed rock was reached on No. 14 El Dorado and fabulously rich pay dirt was found. Then more holes went down in a hurry. Everywhere were discovered prospects on bed rock ranging from $5 to $150 to the pan. The gold was nearly all coarse. Still the greatness of the strike was not realized. Some of the best claims were sold by their owners for a few hundreds or a few thousands. Drifting was carried on by the usual winter process of "burning," and the pay dirt taken out as rapidly as possible under the difficulties of intense cold. Pans as rich as $500 were discovered, and nuggets containing gold worth as high at $235 were brought to light. Claims jumped

up enormously in price, but still many men sold for a small part of the value of their holdings. They seemed wholly unable to realize their good fortune. Doubts were still expressed about the dumps holding out to the prospects.

Then the test—sluicing—came in the spring when the ice melted and the water ran down from the hills. Then the wildest hopes of the toiling miners were realized. Despite the lateness of commencing work and the scarcity of men about $1,500,000 was taken out of El Dorado alone. On some of the richer claims men who secured ground to work on shares—50 per cent—cleared $5,000 to $10,000 apiece in from thirty days' to two months' drifting. As high as $150,000 was drifted out of one claim, the other sums being less. From seventy-five feet of ground on Nos. 25 and 26, El Dorado, $112,000 was taken, or $1,500 per running foot, and the pay not cross-cut, for it frequently runs from vein to vein, being in places 150 feet wide.

$500,000 FOR 500 FEET.

Ground has sold here this spring for over $1,000 a running foot, or at the rate of $500,000 for a claim of 500 feet. Men on whose judgment reliance can be placed and who base their opinion on what their own ground and that of others has yielded, tell me that there are claims here from which over $1,000,000 will come. Last winter men on "lays" (percentage) left 50-cent dirt because they had better in sight and only a limited time before spring to get out ore. Owing to the large number of men on "lays" the production of almost every claim is known, and no overstatement is possible, since so many are interested in the amount of gold produced. As soon as sluicing was fairly

under way the price of claims jumped again and but few would sell. It might almost be said that no one would part with a claim on El Dorado. On Bonanza, where the pay, except on a few claims, is not as rich as on El Dorado, owners who had looked in vain for the $5, $10 and $150 pans, which were plentiful on the rival creek, were disgusted with their moderate gains and were willing to sell. Thus many claims having 20 to 50-cent dirt and three to seven feet of it were sold. The men who sold were paid almost entirely out of their own ground, the men who bought taking the dumps and these, when sluiced, paying for the claims and having a handsome margin for the purchasers. In some instances enough gold was rocked out to make a first payment on the claims before sluicing was possible. Many of these men had neither money nor credit to get "grub" last fall.

A BIG NUGGET.

The office of the British American Prospecting & Developing Company, 52 Yonge street, Toronto, has been crowded of late by an interested crowd viewing the first nugget from Klondyke on exhibition in that city. The nugget is without a doubt one of the largest ever shown in that city. The stock of the company, which is organized by Canadians for mining and trading in that region, is being taken up very rapidly. A Canadian company will have a good chance in that region, as the gold fields are on the Canadian side of the line. The British American Company will operate on the lines of the large African trading and mining companies, and it is a purely Canadian enterprise. No company placed on the market this year has been so liberally subscribed to. Messrs.

Campbell, Currie & Co. are the brokers of the company. The stock of the company is non-assessable and is offered at ten cents per share.

PRESENT DANGERS.

But those chances are of the past; let no one imagine that they still exist. Claims are held by their owners now up in the hundreds of thousands, and those of less desirable quality are dear in proportion. To get a bargain in a claim is impossible at this stage of the fever here. The value of claims is now clearly known. Most of them have passed into second hands, the present owners paying for them in many cases $20,000, $30,000 or $50,000, and holding and working them as straight business propositions. That there will be other finds of gold in other creeks is likely, but as El Dorado is one of those strikes that are made only once in about a quarter of a century it is extremely unlikely that another will be found in this region. As the capacity of the river steamers is limited, and is likely to be taxed to the utmost this year to supply the necessities of those now here, or already coming in, with the rigors of the arctic winter before them, and no provisions, and after September no way of getting out where they may be had, those thinking of coming here, attracted by the marvelous richness of the strike, cannot be too strongly cautioned against making the attempt this season. They can gain nothing, and may suffer much.

WAGES AND OUTLAY.

There are both summer and winter diggings on all the creeks, as some of the claims are capable of being both drifted and sluiced. Some summer drifting is

also done. Wages, owing to the scarcity of men last winter, were $15 a day at the diggings, but they are likely to fall very soon. The price of flour at Dawson City last winter was $1 a pound, and this spring the trading companies advanced their prices in some cases 50 per cent. Canned meats were sold at 75 cents a can. Meals were charged for at the rate of $1.50 apiece. Whisky was the same old price—50 cents a drink. Lumber, when it can be had, is $130 a thousand feet. The price of sawing at the mills is $100 a thousand feet, the logs being furnished by the purchaser. Beds or lodgings are not to be had. If you can't find a place in some tent where you may sleep you may try the saloon floors, of which places there are a number. Good river-front lots in the center of the town may be purchased at from $3,000 to $5,000 each. These same lots sold last fall at $5 apiece.

GETTING RICH IN A HURRY.

A letter from the Klondyke, in possession of a Portland mining man, tells of some wonderful finds in that land of gold. The letter says:

I came down to Dawson to send this off, as the boat leaves in a few days. Now to business. I told you when I saw you last that I would turn up all right in time, and so I have. The gold mines here are wonderful—the biggest in the world. You will not believe half I tell you, but as there will be some gold going to Portland you will see for yourself. There was a claim next to mine that sold for $60,000 a few days ago. I will not send out any gold this time. I washed out in six days about $6,000, and I want to stay here another year or two. Provisions are going to be very scarce. If you will pack up and leave

Portland at once and bring me grub enough to last three of us one year we will give you a half interest in the biggest thing you ever struck.

As you know, I am an old miner and know what I say. My new partner and I have each got $10,000 piled away in a sack. I am sure that in one year from now we three—you, my partner and I—can take out $500,000 and not try at all. My cabin is half a mile from the digging, and many a time I pick up little nuggets that will weigh from an ounce to two ounces. We have been here only four months and have over $30,000 to show. One man will take out $200,000 this trip for four months' work by himself.

IN BEHALF OF LAW AND ORDER.

The richness and extent of the diggings are such that if they were in any place less inaccessible than this, doubtless the stampede to them would be tremendous, but a great influx of gold hunters at this time would be a calamity. The Canadian government has sent in another detachment of police and also a judge and a gold commissioner, who, with the customs officer, constitute the governing force. Owing to the impossibility of escape from the country such of the criminal element as has come in thus far is very quiet and peaceable. Outside of a little stealing of provisions and similar petty offenses there is no crime. There are but a few places where supplies can be had in all this vast country, and any offender is certain therefore of being caught and punished. Though gold has been sitting around in the cabins for months in lard pails, baking powder cans, old boot legs and buckets, no thefts have been committed.

INDIANS NEAR MOUTH OF YUKON.

KADIAK.

NEED OF OUTSIDE COMMUNICATION.

What the country needs above all things is communication with the outside world. If the government at Washington would make some arrangement whereby the Canadians could get a port of entry on the disputed part of the coast it would be a great boon to Alaska as well as to this part of the Northwest territory. Most of the men who "hit it" are Americans, whose gold will go to San Francisco and the United States. Because of the lack of adequate communication with the civilized world the miners are in constant fear lest supplies should give out. Many articles can be had, but for a limited time after the arrival of a steamer, and those who are not fortunate enough to get a supply at that time must do without for weeks and months, no matter how much gold they may have to make purchases with. The scarcity may be one of provisions, window sashes or gum boots, but always there is a scarcity here of some important article. Generally there is never enough of anything, and only the opening up of communication with the coast by some other route than the mouth of the Yukon offers any prospect of adequate relief. If the Canadians had a port of entry they would have commerce coming down the river from the direction of Juneau, and the country would not be dependent upon the scanty supplies coming 1,900 miles up the Yukon from Bering sea.

NOW FOR A LOAN AGENCY.

Like the proverbial poor, the shrewd Hebrew is always with us and ever ready to tread the path beaten by the successful Christian. Civilization would seem incomplete without him. There would have been

cause for wonder had his intelligent gaze overlooked the new El Dorado of the great Northwest. For the immediate amelioration of present conditions in which the embryo millionaires of the Klondyke are at present situated thirty-four Jews started from Boston quite recently en route for the gold fields of Alaska, leaving behind them families, houses and lands, many of them taking their departure without the knowledge of their families. It is their intention to make the journey on foot and to pay for their subsistence by plying their respective trades and peddling. Their leader and president is Charles L. Wise. There were three things for each man to promise before he was entitled to join the party. First, that he had no regret in leaving his home; second, that he would keep clean, and third, that he would abide by the wishes of the majority. It was also necessary for each man to be a Hebrew. Each man was requested to deposit such a sum of money in the treasury as he felt able to give, the deposits ranging from $15 to $200. The oldest man in the party is 50 years old, and the youngest 17. The party after leaving New York, instead of traveling due west will take a southerly course, peddle through some of the southern states as far as Texas and from there go up the Pacific coast to Washington. They expect to reach it in the spring and to reach the gold regions in the middle of May.

WHAT MINERS WEAR.

Of course, they see the sun at midnight up there in summer, and at noon in winter the hidden sun gives bright twilight, which, with the aid of a bright mantle of snow, gives plenty of light for ordinary convenience. Men are not troubled with light shoes and

corns—in the winter, at least. If one is up there, and is fashionable, he will have a pair of moose-hide moccasins, "a mile too big." When he "puts on his shoes" he will first swathe his feet in pieces of blanket to a thickness of from one to two inches, and then put on his moccasins. His moose-hide mittens will be lined with blanket cloth, or else put on over a pair of thick woolen ones, and when he goes out he will put on his "parkie," very likely. That is a big, loose overcoat, with huge enveloping hood, and it is best made of furry moose hide.

STRANGE MINING METHODS.

Mining methods of Klondyke are strange and unheard of and adapted to peculiar conditions. There pay gravel happens to lie several feet below mucky beds of creeks and must be mined out. At nearly all the other Yukon placers ranged along the river for 300 mile gold is in surface gravel. In these diggings little or nothing can be done except from about June 15 to Sept. 1, when water runs. On Klondyke running water prevents the mining out of gravel under creek beds, and so it is all taken out during the months when everything is frozen solid. When the icy chains break in the short summer the gravel that has been mined is quickly sluiced and the gold cleaned up. Prospecting consists of sinking a shaft to bed rock by alternately thawing the ground with fires and digging it out. When the bottom is reached the prospector knows more than he did before. If a pan of bottom gravel, washed out with water from melted ice, shows up rich, the claim is worked by tunneling in. In doing this dry wood is piled against the face of the drift and then other pieces are set slantwise over them. As

the fire burns the gravel falls down from above and gradually covers the slanting shield of wood. The fire smolders away and becomes charcoal burning. It is when it reaches this confined stage during the night that its heat is most effective against the fact of the drift. Next day the miner finds the face of his drift thawed out for a distance of from ten to eighteen inches, according to conditions. He shovels out dirt, and if only part is pay dirt he puts only that on his dump. Thus at the rate of a few inches a day, drifting out of precious gravel goes on.

HOW THE GOLD IS DISTINGUISHED.

Gold dust and nuggets are the principal medium of exchange throughout the Yukon basin, but little money being in circulation. Everybody carries gold-scales and so adept does one become in a short time that it takes but little longer to make change than with coin. If a hair cut is needed the gold dust is weighed out—$1; if a glass of whisky—50 cents, and so on. Everybody carries a buckskin sack. The established value of gold dust is $17 per ounce.

Nuggets of one and two ounces are not uncommon. One was found in Franklin gulch weighing thirty ounces. The gold of the different gulches is readily distinguishable, some being of a light color, worn smooth by the elements, while from others it is rough and of a darker hue.

WORK FOR ALL.

All who are fortunate enough to reach the country are certain to find employment, even if they do not strike a claim, which at present they could avoid only by not looking for it. The poorest miners will

pay $15 per day for help on their claims, but it will cost $5 per day to live unless you take your provisions with you.

A detachment of mounted police of the Northwest territory which passed through Seattle two years ago, struck it rich. Five of the twenty guards returned on the Portland with gold amounting to $200,000. The other fifteen remained in Alaska to engage in mining.

SCURVY THE CHIEF TROUBLE.

It is healthy enough up there. The most prevalent trouble is scurvy, which results from scarcity of vegetables and fresh meats. A diet of beans, salt pork and bad bacon, with flour at $50 a sack, brings trouble. Fresh meat is always scarce. Moose and caribou have been killed off and the chase would not supply a fraction of the population. There are graylings and other fish in the Yukon and they can be hooked through the ice, but who is going to stand out on the middle of a river at 60 degrees below zero and with time worth $15 a day? Last winter a quarter of beef was sledded into Circle City with dogs. It was viewed with wonder at the store for a while, and then raffled off for $400 for the benefit of a projected miners' hospital. This spring an enterprising Juneau man drove 40 head of cattle in from the coast—800 miles—and beef went at 50 and then at 70 cents a pound like free lunch at a Sunday picnic. If anybody gets sick there are patent medicines in the stores, and four or five doctors who diagnose a patient's claim before presenting the bill.

MR. JOSEPH LADUE.

CHAPTER VII.

TO THE KLONDYKE BY WATER.

The Ocean Route—Steamers and Transportation—Food Supplies—Accommodations—When to Go—The Money Required—Points of Interest—The Aleutian Islands—Dutch Harbor—At St. Michaels—Up the "Nile of the North"—Continuous Daylight—Region of the Yukon—Houses at a Yukon Town—Old Fort Yukon—Circle City—Within the Arctic Circle—Fort Selkirk—A Quick Trip—To Those Going.

Of the two routes by which the prospective traveler may reach the Klondyke the one known as the Yukon route is the most in favor. This is invested with the least hardship, but it is only available during the short four-month summer. It is a thirty-five day journey, although by fast boat it can be accomplished in thirty days.

TRANSPORTATION.

The North American Transportation and Trading Co., with Alaskan headquarters at Circle City, on the Yukon River, has prepared to meet the rush of miners with commendable promptitude; and, considering the unusual difficulties of the journey, the accommodation is all that could be expected. The fare on this company's boats from Seattle to any point on the Yukon River was $150 first class, and $125 second class. This included two hundred pounds of baggage and also meals and berth, with the exception that the second class travelers had to furnish their own bedding. In consequence of the rush to the Klondyke district the fare from Seattle has now been raised to $200.

Hitherto the traffic by water has been solely in the hands of the North American Transportation and Trading Company, a Chicago corporation, in which such men as P. B. Weare and Michael and John

Cudahy are interested. This company owns the boats which are used in the traffic and also the stores along the Yukon. Transportation of passengers and supplies is a profitable feature, but its principal purpose is the sale of provisions and the transaction of a general commercial business. Like all similar enterprises in a new country it has practically a monopoly. The Company will carry a passenger with 150 pounds of baggage from Seattle to the head waters of the Yukon for $165, and give him all he wants to eat on the way, but it will not permit him to carry a store of provisions for use after he gets there. Food supplies must be procured from the Company's agents. These can be bought on the Yukon or contracted for in advance. In the former instance it will be a matter of getting what is in stock and paying such prices as are made possible by a rush of customers. If a contract is made the traveler pays down the lump sum of $400 and the Company guarantees to feed him for a year.

FOOD SUPPLIES.

The great danger that now faces people in the Klondyke is a scarcity of provisions. Everything in the way of supplies that it is possible to get there this year is now on the road. With the stocks now in store 10,000 people can be fed this winter. There are nearly that many now on the ground and the number is increasing right along. With 15,000 mouths to feed it is certain to be a case of short rations at the best, and a swelling of the population to 20,000 means starvation for some of them. An effort is being made to get cattle and sheep into the country by driving them through the mountain passes from Juneau, but the journey is exhausting and dangerous. Such live stock as can be landed in Dawson City in eatable condition will readily bring $1 a pound. The principal food used now is bacon, beans, and flour, with condensed milk and a few canned goods. Fresh milk, butter, and eggs are unknown quantities.

ACCOMMODATION.

Heretofore all parties seeking points on the Yukon

River had to use the route by way of Juneau and down the river in a small boat. This was a long and tedious trip, and it was necessary to start from Seattle in March to make it possible to reach the mines by the latter part of June. In contrast to this there are now first class passenger steamers going direct to the mines from either Seattle or San Francisco. Miners are thus enabled to reach the mines in ample time for the season's work, while avoiding a long and dangerous trip and at less expense than in the old way. The Alaska Commercial Co., which practically succeeded the old Hudson Bay Co., ran boats originally in the fur trade interest from San Francisco, but the North American Transportation Co. are practically the pioneers in transportation to the gold fields. In selling tickets the companies agree to take the traveler as far as possible on the Yukon River, but cannot agree to go to Dawson City, as, owing to the difficulties of navigation and many other possible obstacles, including the shortness of the season, they may be obliged to tie up for the winter at Circle City or some point below Dawson City. This condition applies mainly to trips that are made late in the season.

WHEN TO GO.

In some quarters it is contended that it is well to go to the Klondyke at the beginning of the season, but there can be no question that the best time to make the trip is at the end of the season, with the prospect of a winter there to look around, get acquainted with the country and do what prospecting is necessary. This will put the miner on the ground when the season opens. The chance to work with running water lasts only about four and a half months, so that every moment is valuable. No one should go there planning to stay less than twelve months. It is largely a question of means. To make the trip at the end of the season with an outfit and provisions for a stay of twelve months necessitates a considerable outlay, but then it is the only way to give the gold fields a fair trial. If one makes the trip at the begin-

ning of the season without being prepared to stay over the following winter, it will probably mean disaster, as the most valuable time will be occupied in going and coming.

THE MONEY REQUIRED.

The minimum amount of money required is $600. It would not be safe to start out with less. But it had better be made a thousand, if possible, for with the present rush it is likely that prices will be trebled or even quadrupled. Even the Indians will charge more for their assistance. Still, if a man is stranded on the way he will probably find it easy to make a living almost anywhere in the gold bearing portion of the Yukon basin. He can earn $10 or $15 a day digging the ground for men with good claims. And with the rise in prices these wages may also go up. Bear in mind, however, that the price of living must increase in proportion. These opinions are expressed by Chas. G. Yale, the mining expert.

POINTS OF INTEREST.

From Seattle the ocean steamer leaving Puget Sound sails out to the northwest across the Pacific Ocean to the Aleutian Islands, between which a channel leads into Bering Sea. Safe in these latter waters the steamer is put on a direct northerly course to St. Michaels Island, which lies on the far western coast of Alaska at the mouth of the Yukon River. There a transfer is made to a light-draft river boat and in this the rest of the voyage to Dawson, Circle City, or Fort Cudahy is made. Up to this time there have been two boats in this Yukon River service, each of which makes one round trip during the summer. The first boat up in the spring reaches Circle City toward the end of June, and the last one leaves there early in September on the return trip to St. Michaels Island.

THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS.

On the Aleutians nearly every foot of the landscape is bright green. The highest peaks are snow-capped, but below that there is no visible thing but moss and

grass. Salmonberry bushes grow everywhere, but they are low and inconspicuous, and offer no contrast to the prevailing color, and there are no trees.

DUTCH HARBOR.

Within the harbor is an island, with a crescent bay that is called Dutch harbor, where the company that owns the sealing privilege of the Pribyloff islands has a supply station. Then back of this island, at the head of the bay, is another curved beach, where is strung out the line of white-painted houses that constitute the port of Unalaska. On the hillside back of the town may be seen a herd of cows, knee-deep in rank grass.

AT ST. MICHAEL'S.

St. Michael's used to be a Russian fortification, and some of the old Russian buildings are still standing, but for many years it has been the transfer and forwarding point for all goods going into or coming out of the interior. Both the commercial companies doing business on the river have warehouses here. During the two or three months of open navigation it is a place of considerable activity. Then communication is cut off, and it goes into the long, uneventful night of winter. The white inhabitants are probably fifty resident employes of the companies, the collector of customs, several missionaries and a few independent traders. Several hundred Eskimos also live on the island. The surface of the country immediately surrounding St. Michael's is gently rolling, and in summer it is covered with a great growth of grass, having more the appearance of Nebraska prairies than of an arctic region. A series of six or seven low, cone-shaped hills across the shallow estuary are extinct volcanoes. In all the landscape there is no timber, nor are there trees anywhere near Bering sea.

UP THE YUKON.

The trip to the gold fields by the Yukon River route is pleasant for tourists during the summer months. They leave Seattle on a well appointed steamer, which

proceeds up Puget Sound, passes Port Townsend and Victoria, and gets out through the Straits of San Juan de Fuca to the Pacific. From then on the voyage is an uninterrupted run of 2,000 miles to Dutch Harbor, the first stop. Dutch Harbor is a coaling station and a supply point for naval vessels and the Bering sea fleets of sealers and whalers. After a short stop there the vessel proceeds on its way north through Bering sea, past the Seal Island of St. George and St. Paul and up through Norton Sound to Fort Get There, on St. Michael's Island, where is located the transfer and supply station for the Yukon river. Here the traveler finds a good many native Eskimos. Here passengers and freight are transferred to large and commodious river steamers, which proceed down the coast sixty miles to the north mouth of the Yukon, a river larger than the Mississippi, that can be navigated with large steamers 2,300 miles without a break, and which abounds in fish, the salmon being noted far and wide for their fine flavor and large size.

CONTINUOUS DAYLIGHT.

As you proceed up the river you see innumerable Indian villages and small settlements inhabited by traders, missionaries and Indians, all of interest to the traveler. The first two or three hundred miles is through low, flat country, after which the mountainous country is reached, and the constant change of magnificent scenery is beyond description.

At old Fort Yukon, which is inside of the arctic circle, you see during the months of June and July the sun twenty-four hours without a break, and all along the river during these months one can read a paper at any time during the day or night without a lamp. It is continuous daylight during this time.

After leaving here the next point of interest is Circle City, the metropolis of the Yukon country. Here you find a large frontier town, the houses all built of logs, and while they have no pretensions to beauty, they are warm and comfortable. Circle City has a population of nearly 2,000 people, and some of the best placer

mines in the country are located near this place. From here the traveler proceeds on up the river 240 miles further, and finds Fort Cudahy at the mouth of Forty Mile Creek. This is a thriving town, similar to Circle City, but not as large. It is the supply point for the mines in the forty-mile district.

REGION OF THE YUKON.

The Yukon river, which crosses Alaska from east to west and empties into the Pacific a little south of Bering Strait, is said to be a mightier stream than the Columbia. River steamers navigate it hundreds of miles from its mouth. Passengers from Seattle are usually transferred from ocean steamships to these vessels at St. Michael's Island, near the mouth of the Yukon. The source of the river is in British territory, 200 or 300 miles south of the point where the stream crooks away westward into Alaska. In fact, it may be said to drain very nearly the same mountain slopes as the Fraser, Columbia, Peace, and Stickine. It was natural, therefore, to expect that gold would be found along the main channel of the Yukon or some of its tributaries. Explorers were sent out from two bases. One set went up the river from its mouth, traversing the whole of Alaska from the west to east; and another pushed up from the south, from the vicinity of Juneau, through Chilkat Pass. The North American Transportation and Trading Company established trading stations near the source of the river five or six years ago. Most of the prospecting has been done either between this locality and the point where the river crossed into Alaska, or within the first 100 miles over the line.

Fine gold dust, in small quantities, was found at the mouth of the Porcupine river, a stream that joins the Yukon about 100 miles west of the boundary, and also near the mouth of Forty-Mile Creek, most of whose course lies in Alaska, but which crosses into British territory before emptying into the big river. Fort Cudahy is situated here, and Circle City, where there were other mining camps, is about fifty miles further

west. These places are about 800 or 900 miles from the sea, if one travels by steamboat, and in the winter are completely cut off from the outer world.

HOUSES AT A YUKON TOWN.

The principal settlement on the Canadian side, Forty Mile, is not in many respects after the style of the typical mining towns. There are no animals—except dogs—and in the whole town there is not the track of a wheel. It is at the mouth of the creek that has given to the interior its greatest celebrity, a town of 200 cabins, all so nearly alike, with a few exceptions, that the difference is hardly worth mentioning. The Alacka Commercial Company has a 2-story building for its agents' office, and there are others; a few saloons and stores and the Pioneer hotel, but there is one form of architecture that seems to fill the requirements of the climate and of taste. It is a log house twenty feet square, with a perfectly flat, dirt-covered top. The top of the house is a hanging garden, which, if the structure is more than a year old, is covered with a rank growth of weeds.

It would be hard to find anything else than dirt that would keep out the cold. In building such a house there is a groove cut in what is to be the underside of each log, that it may fit down snug to the timber just beneath it, and there is a packing of moss put in all the joints between the logs to fill all possible inequalities. Moss is the best non-conductor of heat or cold that the country affords, and it is put to a variety of uses in building. To make a roof a course of stout poles first is laid across, and after that a thick coating of moss; then the flower garden is put on—that is, about a foot of dirt. There is no floor, except the natural one, and the furniture is an after consideration, made to suit the requirements of the occupant; a bedstead made altogether of poles, as is usually the table also, chairs of a great variety of design and finish, a moose-skin rug or two, and the invariable Yukon stove. The latter is made of sheet-iron, and weighs about twenty-five pounds. There are no vani-

ties of any sort about a Forty Mile house. It is made primarily to keep out the cold. It has a single door—extending no higher or lower or wider than is necessary for getting in or out—and a single window of four small pants of glass. In winter another sash is put in to make a double thickness. There is a preponderance of saloons at Forty Mile. Whisky is worth $10 a quart bottle and retails at 50 cents a glass. A half dollar also buys three loaves of bread.

FORT YUKON.

The use of the word "fort" in naming the stations of the lower river is not justified by facts. None of them has ever been put to military use. Fort Yukon was established by Robert Bell as a post of the Hudson Bay Company, he assuming that it was in Canadian territory. He made a mistake of 300 miles, measured by the river. Hudson Bay Company held the post until it was warned away by an American officer. The other "forts" are only trading posts, generally with a log store building and a few cabins, fringed with a variety of native shacks.

CIRCLE CITY.

Circle City stands on a dead-level plain, twenty feet higher than the river at the ordinary stage of water. In the distant background is a low range of purple hills which marks the dividing line between the Birch creek district and the river. On the opposite side from the town the river runs away into space, with no very well defined shore line.

The prevailing style of architecture in this city, where gold nuggets exchange currently for flour, is a low, square log cabin, with wide projecting eaves and a dirt roof. The crevices between the logs are chinked with moss, which abounds everywhere. It takes two men about two weeks to get out the logs and erect one of these buildings, and when it is done it rents for $15 a month, or if it is for sale it commands from $300 to $500.

Poor Circle City!—hardly a dozen white people,

from the present outlook, will be left here next winter to offset perhaps a hundred Indians. Seven months ago Circle City could boast 1,500 white people, now scarcely forty, and they are only waiting for the first boat to take them to Klondyke.

Circle City differs not greatly from Forty Mile. It is a newer place, having been started three years ago. There is no natural advantage in putting the town in that particular place, only that there is a little bight of the river just out of reach of the headlong current, which makes a quiet landing place for small boats, and back of it is a level country for miles. Yet there is another reason in the fact that it is only eight miles across a low divide to Birch creek, which is the point of interest for all gold hunters.

A postoffice has recently been established in Circle City, and the first United States mail arrived there on July 14. Before that it was the custom to get one or two mails a year in and out of the country by private enterprise. The carriers usually received $1 a letter for the service and made $500 to $1,000 out of a single trip. The government contract was let at $500 for a round trip from Juneau to Circle City, but the man who carried the Canadian mail from Juneau to Forty Mile received $650 for the round trip, with 300 miles less distance. There was only one trip made this year with the United States mail, while the Canadian contractor made three.

WITHIN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE.

It would seem to people in the "old country," as the states are sometimes referred to, that there could be no stability about the growth of a town almost within the arctic circle, but somehow a newcomer has not been in the place twenty-four hours before he is inspired with a different idea. Fine and coarse gold and nuggets are shaken out of buckskin bags and weighed in exchange for "grub" without discrimination.

Dogs are worth $100 each. Speaking of dogs, it seems that a large percentage of the wealth here is

invested in them. They are really more of a pest than the much-advertised mosquito. Food is so high that a dog is expected to forage for his living and they become very expert rustlers. When a meal is in preparation the dogs form a circle around the cook and as a man cannot look in all directions at once they take every opportunity to glide in and make off with a frying pan, a stick of stove wood or anything that has the least flavor or suggestion of cooking. A miner who was stopping near an Indian camp placed his last loaf of bread under his head before going to sleep in order to make sure of it, but long before morning a Siwash dog had made away with it. The dogs are a great nuisance, because ordinary precautions against them are of no avail; clubbing is useless, and shooting a dog would precipitate a call for a miners' meeting.

FORT SELKIRK.

The most extensive efforts at gardening of all places in the interior have been carried on at Fort Selkirk for several years. They have this year an acre or more of potatoes, besides cabbage, turnips and other vegetables. They have to irrigate the gardens to some extent by pumping water from the river, and it is necessary to blanket the plants early and also late in the season. For probably six weeks of midsummer the latter protection is not necessary. The soil is very fertile, and produces better after two or three years' cultivation. Although much care is entailed in raising a garden crop on the Yukon, it pays very well, as potatoes are easily worth $10 a bushel at any season of the year.

The upper ramparts of the Yukon begin at the mouth of Pelly river. This remarkable formation is a perpendicular wall continuing along the north bank of the river for fifteen miles. It maintains an almost straight course, and is without a crevice or approachable opening for the entire distance, rising straight up from the water. At the top of the wall a grassy plain extends back for a distance, when it is again broken by terraces rising one above another, which in turn

terminate abruptly in precipitous mountains. The wall itself, at the lower end, is merged into lofty mountains, broken and irregular.

A QUICK TRIP.

A trip from Chicago by one of the fastest boats will cost thirty days—four from Chicago to Seattle, sixteen from Seattle to St. Michael's Island, and ten up the Yukon to Dawson City. The distance in general figures is 2,250 miles from Chicago to Seattle, 2,500 miles to St. Michael's Island and 1,890 miles up the Yukon to Dawson, a total of about 6,000 miles.

As prospecting miners usually travel, the cost of a trip from Chicago to Dawson City is $251.50. From Chicago to Seattle (second class), $51.50; from Seattle to Dawson City, $200. By the fast boats, however, the voyager should be prepared to expend a little extra with a view to saving five days' time.

TO THOSE GOING.

If you contemplate a trip it is advisable to engage your passage early, if not at once, as the probable rush will be very considerable. The recent gold fever that had its birth in the Klondyke district has caused an immense amount of excitement and there is no doubt that the reported discoveries are founded on fact. The tide that has set in toward the Klondyke gold fields rises higher every day. Talk of approaching cold weather, snow, ice and a thousand and one hardships that can be figured out meet with a deaf ear. "I have decided to go," is the almost universal answer, "and I am going. If I can't do anything this winter I will be on the ground ready to start for the Klondyke next spring when the ice goes out of the Yukon." Dress is only one item. Every miner must take his own food with him. Here is a list of provisions made out by an expert as sufficient to last a man for one month:

Twenty pounds of flour, with baking powder.
Twelve pounds of bacon.
Six pounds of beans.

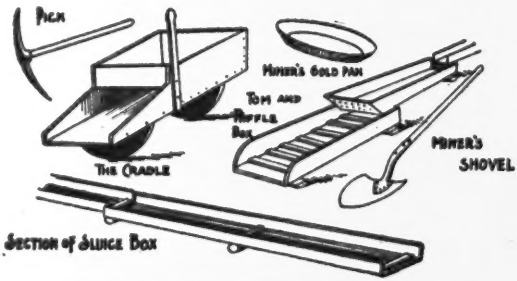
Five pounds of desiccated vegetables.
Four pounds of butter.
Five pounds of sugar.
Four cans of milk.
One pound of tea.
Three pounds of coffee.
Two pounds of salt.
Five pounds of corn meal.
Pepper, mustard.
The following utensils would not be too many:
One frying pan.
One water kettle.
One Yukon stove.
One bean pot.
Two plates.
One drinking cup.
One teapot.
One knife and fork.
One large and one small cooking pan.
The following tools are necessary for boat building:
One jack plane.
One whipsaw.
One hand saw.
One rip saw.
One draw knife.
One axe.
One hatchet.
One pocket knife.
Six pounds of assorted nails.
Three pounds oakum.
Three pounds of pitch.
Fifty feet of five-eighths rope.

"Other necessities would be a tent, a rubber blanket, mosquito netting and matches. It is also desirable to take along a small, well filled medicine chest, a rifle, a trout line and a pair of snow glasses, to provide against snow blindness.

"The entire outfit can be obtained in Juneau, where one can be sure of getting just what is needed, without any extra weight, which is a matter of great importance, as many hard portages are to be encountered on

the trip. Hitherto prices in Juneau have been reasonable. Of course one cannot say what may be the result of the present rush in the way of raising prices.

"You advise people to wait until spring. But don't you think the cream of the claims will be skimmed next year?"



WORKING OUTFIT.

CHAPTER VIII.

OVERLAND TO THE KLONDYKE.

Gateway to the Northwest—The Indian Quarter—The Juneau Route—Portages on the Route—Dyea—The Indians—Over the Mountain Trail—Chilkoot Pass—Chilkat Pass—White Pass—Wagon Road Over White Pass—For a Quicker Service—Railroad Is Surveyed—Lake Teslin Trail—Queer Outfits—Building One's Own Boat—A Profitable Delay—To Five-Finger Rapids—At Miles Canyon—Indian Packers—Succession of Stations Overland and by River—Outfit for the Overland Trip—A New York Statement—The Temperature.

The metropolis and gateway of our big northwest territory is Juneau, a town hardly 10 years old. In spite of the immensity of the country it is hard to find room enough on the coast to build a town on and consequently Juneau is much crowded for space. The streets are hardly half the usual width and the houses reach up the foot of the mountain as high as it is safe to build them on account of the risk from snowslides.

As there is plenty of timber everywhere all the houses, including the federal building, are of wood. Even the Indians live in fairly good frame houses. The law, as far as it extends, is administered by the United States authorities. A federal commissioner hears all cases that come up, disposing of the smaller ones and holding the more serious offenders to the United States court. Most of the cases are for the violation of the liquor regulations. For the most part the liquor laws are a dead letter. Dozens of saloons are run openly without paying any kind of license. An occasional arrest is made, but it does not serve as a check on the business. Public opinion is against

the enforcement of the law. The only offense of this nature that is regarded seriously is the selling of liquor to the Indians. Public opinion condemns this and there are occasional convictions for it.

THE INDIAN QUARTER.

A slight hill, or ridge, divides the business portion of Juneau from the Indian town. Standing on this ridge at any time in the day one may enjoy an animated picture on the beach below. The one important item in life to these Indians is their fishing. Their houses line the beach at a safe distance above high tide and all the intermediate space is filled with the appurtenances of their craft. Their long boats, or kyacks, turned up at both ends and which cut the water like a knife, are drawn up out of reach of the surf and are generally covered over with skins or cloths to protect them from the weather.

These boats are very speedy, and the Indians fearlessly undertake any sort of a sea voyage in them. Sometimes the Alaskan Indians go all the way down to Puget Sound for the sake of a month's work during the hop-picking season and for the incidental excitement.

THE JUNEAU ROUTE.

The way of getting to the mines by what is commonly called the Juneau route, is much more direct but it is broken by various methods of transportation. The first stage is a four days' trip from Seattle up the coast 900 miles to Juneau. This is the principal Alaskan port, a town of 5,000 inhabitants, and a very good outfitting point, as prices are but little higher than at the cities of Puget Sound. Everything that a miner needs can be procured there in ordinary times, although such a rush as is expected might exhaust the resources of the town.

On arrival at Juneau the traveler changes to a smaller boat and sails 100 miles north to Dyea. From there he has a portage of twenty-seven miles through the Chilkoot Pass. The last half-mile of this pass is over a glacier and the severest of climbing. Chilkoot

Indians are employed to pack supplies to the top of the pass, but from there on the traveler has to pack his own load.

After getting through the Chilkoot Pass the traveler reaches Lake Lindeman. At that point is a sawmill, where boats are sold at $75 each. Travelers who do not care to pay that price can purchase lumber and build their own boats. The lumber can be bought for $100 a thousand feet, and about 500 feet are required to build a boat that will answer the purpose. Still other travelers carry whipsaws and get out their own lumber, and a man handy with saw and hammer can build a boat in three or four days. To continue the trip, though, a boat is necessary and by some means or other one must be had.

PORTAGES ON THE ROUTE.

After securing his boat the traveler floats down Lake Lindeman and Lake Bennett and then has half a mile of portage where his boat has to be moved on rollers. There is any amount of rollers to be had, though, for earlier beaters of the path have left them. This half mile overland brings the traveler to Lake Tagish, through which he goes six miles and over a quarter of a mile of portage to Mud Lake, and on to the White Horse Rapids. Here there is another portage of three-quarters of a mile, and the traveler brings his boat to Lake Labarge. From there on the journey is through Thirty Mile river, the Lewis river, 150 miles to Five Finger Rapids, to the Yukon at Fort Selkirk, and then down stream 250 miles to Dawson.

DYEA.

Dyea is fifty miles north of Juneau, and it was desired to save passengers the annoyance of disembarking at Juneau and awaiting another steamer for Dyea, the head of navigation on this route to the Yukon frontier. The granting of the application would have made it necessary, in all cases of vessels clearing for Dyea, to give a special permit to the deputy at Juneau in the case of each vessel.

In order to obviate this difficulty the secretary of the treasury constituted Dyea a sub port of entry in the district of Alaska. The Canadian government will be notified immediately of the decision to create a sub port of entry at Dyea for the benefit of British shippers of supplies for the gold district.

Vessels carrying men, provisions and supplies will be allowed to proceed past Juneau to Dyea, where the supplies are to be put into bond and shipped over the short intervening stretch of United States territory to the British Columbia boundary line, and thence to the Klondyke fields.

Each man starts from Dyea with about 800 pounds of supplies, including provisions and also tools with which to build a boat. These supplies must be hauled on a hand sled in the snow by the man himself if he has no Esquimau dogs. It is a terrible load over a strange country. One man can haul on his sled only about 200 pounds at a load. He takes that about four or five miles, unloads, and then returns for 200 pounds more, and so on until he has his outfit moved to the spot where he left his first load. This tedious method is pursued until one reaches Chilkoot Pass, which is 3,500 feet above sea level, and through which the trail crosses the coast range of mountains. One must pack on his back about 50 to 100 pounds of supplies to the summit and then return for more until his 800 pounds of outfit is carried up the mountain. All this must be done in blinding snowstorms, as it snows and blows all the time except in the two summer months.

THE INDIANS.

From a miner who came down from Alaska recently it was learned that 200 Indians of the Stick tribe are coming to the coast at the head of Dyea Inlet for the purpose of packing freight across the divide and rafting it across the lakes and down the Yukon river to the mining fields. If the intention is carried out Alaska may have a full fledged Indian war, as the Chilkat tribe has always warned the Sticks and other interior tribes not to come to the coast to engage in any in-

dustries. The work of packing freight over the divide has long been monopolized by the Chilkats.

OVER THE MOUNTAIN TRAILS.

There are three paths over the mountains from Juneau to the upper Yukon. These are known as the Chilkoot, the Chilkat, and White Pass. The former has been generally used, but the latter is now coming into favor as the shortest and most favorable. It is a trip of 600 miles through mountains covered with snow and subject to sudden storms of terrible violence. Supplies must be transported by dog sledge or packed on small ponies, the former being preferable. To get any kind of an outfit requires a large expenditure of money, and besides this Indian guides and porters must be well paid for accompanying the expeditions. In addition to the animal loads every man carries from fifty to sixty pounds of provisions and tools on his back. and when this is packed along for four weeks, up and down steep hills and over rude trails in ice and snow, the task is herculean in its nature. The Indians charge $1 a pound for carrying loads through the fords, and on every side there is a chance to spend money fast. American traders are now making an experiment by way of the White Pass, through which they think the trip from Juneau to Dawson City can be made in two weeks. For some unknown reason this pass has been overlooked by most of the people now crowding into the Yukon country overland, and the thousands who were unable to get passage by the last boat to St. Michael's Island are going through the Chilkoot trail.

CHILKOOT PASS.

This pass is the shortest of all the passes, but the highest by at least 1,000 feet. It is the one always used by the miners and is the route generally followed. It starts at the head of Taiya inlet and follows the bottom lands of the Taiya river for some eight miles, where it enters the canyon. The Sheep camp is at timber line, and from there the scene is one of extreme desolation, occupied only by glaciers and moun-

tain sheep. No vegetation of any kind can be seen for miles around the summit. Healy & Wilson have a trading post and outfitting establishment at Taiya. They will give all necessary assistance in securing packers over this trail. The total length of this trail from Wilson's to Lake Lindeman is about twenty-four miles, although a second short portage at the foot of Lindeman will have to be made. If this trail should ever become the improved route, this piece of river could be made navigable for lighters.

Chilkoot Pass is 3,550 feet above sea level. There are other gateways to the Yukon. The Skagwa, or White Pass, will undoubtedly gain ascendency over the Chilkoot and will probably prove the best of the number that have been tried. The only reason that the Skagwa is not now in use for a summer pass is that there has been no trail constructed. It is urged that if there was a passable road over the route the difficulties of getting to the Yukon would be lessened by one-half.

From salt water to the highest point on the pass is fourteen miles, and the elevation is less than 2,600 feet. The grade is easy the whole distance, and it is possible to build a wagon road or even a railroad at no great cost from Skagwa bay, which is an excellent harbor, to the navigable waters of the interior; and the distance would be less than thirty-five miles. From the summit of this pass there are three different routes to navigable fresh water, all apparently about equally good. They radiate to the head of Lake Bennett, to the Windy Arm of Takish and to Tuchi Lake respectively, neither of which is more than twenty miles from the summit. These routes are an easy descent of about 300 feet for the twenty miles, without any considerable retrogressive hills to encounter.

The Skagwa, with its choice of three terminals, is undoubtedly the natural entrance to the Yukon. If the coast boundary is confirmed at the present thirty-mile limit the whole road would be on American soil. If on the other hand it is decided that there is such a thing as a coast range of mountains that it is possible

to construe as a boundary, the line would be at the summit of the pass, and consequently fourteen miles, or a little less than one-half the trail, would be in Alaska.

CHILKAT PASS.

The Chilkat trail leads over the Chilkat Pass and is about one hundred and twenty-five miles in length from the head of Chilkat inlet to where it strikes the waters of Tahkeena river. This was the old trail used by the Indians to and from the interior and leads all the way through to old Fort Selkirk by land. Jack Dalton has used this trail at times in taking horses and live stock to the mines, portaging to the Tahkeena, then by raft down that river to the Lewis, thus proving that the Tahkeena is navigable for a small stern-wheel steamer for a distance of some seventy miles.

WHITE PASS.

This is undoubtedly the best pass, all things considered, that cuts the Coast range. It is at least 1,000 feet lower than the Chilkoot and little higher than the Taku. It is reported timbered the entire length. Its salt water terminus is about eighty-five miles north of Juneau and ocean steamers can run up to the landing at all times, where there is a good townsite, well protected from storms. The pass lies through a box canyon surrounded by high granite peaks and is comparatively easy. The first seven miles from salt water lie up the bottom lands of the Shkagway river through heavy timber. Then for about seven miles farther the way is over piles of boulders and moraines which would prove the most expensive part of the trail. This trail would not exceed thirty-two miles in length and would strike Windy Arm of Tagish Lake or Taku Arm coming in farther up the lake. All of this part of the lake is well timbered and accessible to Lake Bennett and its connections. White Pass could be used as a mail route any month in the year.

WAGON ROAD OVER WHITE PASS.

C. H. Wilkinson, on behalf of the British Yukon Company, has made an offer to the minister of the interior to build a wagon road through the White Pass for $2,000 a mile. The distance is about fifty miles. About eight miles of the road would be difficult to build. It would take $7,000 a mile, being all rock excavation, to construct this eight miles.

At the rate the people are flocking into the new gold region of the Yukon country, something will have to be done soon to provide a way of getting provisions into the mining district.

If this road were built Victoria could be reached from the Yukon district in about fourteen days. The minister has taken the matter into consideration.

FOR A QUICKER SERVICE.

For the last three years several local and English companies have been studying the lay of the land between Chilkat and Circle City, with a view to establishing a quicker and more practicable way of transportation to the gold fields along the Yukon. Goodall, Perkins & Co., have made a thorough investigation of the matter. Capt. Charles M. Goodall says:

"The rich find in the Klondyke district will probably result in some better means of transportation, though the roughness of the country and the limited open season will not justify anybody building a railroad for any distance. Recently we sent several hundred sheep and cattle to Juneau, and from there to the head of navigation by the steamer Alki. Mr. Dalton, who discovered the trail across the country from the Chilkat river to Fort Selkirk, is taking live stock to the mines. His route lies from the head of navigation through Chilkat Pass and along the trail, which is over prairie several hundred miles, to the Yukon river, near Fort Selkirk. At this time of year the prairie is clear and bunch grass grows on it in abundance.

"I believe this will ultimately be the popular route. People could go over it in wagons, as the prairie is level. Stations could be established, as was done on

our plains in '49. It would be easy to go down the Yukon in boats from where Dalton's trail strikes it to Dawson City and other mining camps."

The plan to build a traction road over Chilkat Pass from Tyea, the head of navigation after leaving Juneau, to Lake Lindeman, is not a good business proposition. It has been talked of, and the rest of the plan is to have steamers to ply from Lake Lindeman through the other lakes to the Yukon. But to do this two portages would have to be made on account of the falls in the river, and these would be enormously expensive.

A British company has had in contemplation for some time the construction of a railroad from the head of navigation on Taku inlet, near Juneau, to Teslin, or Aklene Lake, and thence down some small rivers to the Yukon and the mines. Even by this rorte there would be need of portages. The natural way to take in freight, unless the hurry be great, is by St. Michael and up the Yukon. To establish even a wagon road over Dalton's trail on the prairie, a railroad over the divide fror Tyea to Lake Lindeman, or a railroad as planned by the English company, concessions would have to be secured from the British government.

RAILROAD IS SURVEYED.

George W. Garside, a well-known engineer, formerly in the employ of the government, has recently completed the survey of sixty-two miles of railway running from Skagwa bay over the White Pass to Lake Tagis and thence to the upper Hootalinqua river.

He is employed by the British-American Transportation Company, said to be amply supplied with funds with which to complete the undertaking. It is said work will begin in the spring of 1898. The new route will be 100 miles longer than that at present followed by miners going into the Yukon basin overland from Dyea.

River steamers are to be used up the Yukon and

Hootalinqua rivers from Dawson City and on the lakes, which will comprise part of the new route. The dangerous White Horse rapids and the whirlpools of Miles canyon will be eliminated.

LAKE TESLIN TRAIL.

A good trail from the coast to the Yukon region is by the Lake Teslin trail. It starts at Fort Wrangell and presents few difficulties. This route leads up Telegraph creek from Fort Wrangell, and there is clear water travel for about 100 miles up the creek. The creek is abandoned there and the traveler strikes straight across the smooth table land for about 175 miles. Then the Teslin Lake is reached and it is plain sailing down the Halalinqua river, a tributary of the Lewis river, and down the Lewis is clear going to Dawson City.

The only dangerous part of this route is the Five Finger rapids and these are not bad if one has a guide. John C. Galbreath, for many years a resident of Telegraph Creek, has been directed by the British Columbia government to open this new route and $2,000 will be expended on it immediately. Steamboats can operate up Telegraph creek. Even now the trip to the gold fields can be made with less danger and more quickly by this route than by any other. It is open usually until the middle of October and sometimes as late as November.

QUEER OUTFITS.

Equipment for mining in Northern Alaska is an important item but little understood by amateur prospectors. Many laughable things are seen in the outfits of those who assemble in Seattle to take boat for St. Michael's or Juneau, and some shrewd but unkind traders have found it a favorable time for working off odds and ends which have been accumulating in stock for years. Your old-timer takes as simple an outfit as he can—heavy woolen underwear, coarse trousers and pea jacket, stout shoes, blue flannel shirts, dark blankets, and a black sweater, the latter being

chosen on account of economy in washing. His tools will be a pickaxe and long-handled spade, while a few tin pans and dishes will comprise his camp equipage. A good repeating rifle is always handy, but not an essential. The tenderfoot goes loaded down with an arsenal of firearms, a camping kit for which he can have no possible use, and clothing more suitable for tending store in Georgia than mining in the wilds of Alaska. Half of his useless truck has to be abandoned on the road, and if he reaches the Klondyke with a quarter of his original load he is in luck. The first thing to be done in every instance on reaching the Eldorado is to get a shelter of some kind. In the summer a heavy tent with a board or well packed earth floor will answer, but in the winter, with the mercury down to 70 or 80 degrees below zero, nothing but a substantial log cabin with a roaring fire will keep out the cold, and even then there will be times when the occupant will wish he had more blankets. It is a struggle to sustain life in a northern Alaskan winter, and the conditions must be favorable, with plenty of food, clothing, and fuel, if a healthy vitality is to be retained. It is foolhardy to attempt the trip in the fall of the year. Even allowing that the dangers of the mountain trail can be overcome, there is the further emergency of short food supplies to be met on arrival at Dawson. The best time to start is in the early spring, when the journey can be made by boat.

BUILDING ONE'S OWN BOAT.

The next thing, after getting safely over the pass, is to build a boat. Four men who are handy with tools can take the standing spruce, saw out lumber and build a boat large enough to carry them and their 4,000 pounds of provisions all in a week. It should be a good, stanch boat, for there are storms to be encountered on the lakes, and rapids, moreover, that would shake a frail craft to pieces. The boat should have a sail that could be raised and lowered conveniently.

With boat built one starts from the head of Lake

Bennett on the last stage of the trip—a sail of 600 miles downstream (not counting lakes) to Dawson City, at the mouth of the Klondyke. With fair weather, at the evening of the second day one reaches Miles canyon, the beginning of the worst piece of water on the trip. The voyager has passed through Lake Bennett and Takish and Marsh Lakes. At the head of Miles canyon begins three miles of indescribably rough water which terminates in White Horse rapids.

During the rush of gold hunters it is probable there will be men at Miles canyon who will make a business of taking boats through the rapids, and unless one is an experienced river man it is economy to pay a few dollars for such service, rather than to take the greater chances of losing an outfit.

A PROFITABLE DELAY.

After the rapids comes Lake LaBarge, a beautiful sheet of water thirty-five miles long, and in this connection a suggestion is desirable. Near the foot of the lake, on the left side, is a creek coming in which marks a good game country. A year ago and in previous seasons moose were plentiful there and in the rugged mountains nearer the head of the lake there always have been good hunting grounds for mountain sheep. A delay of a week either in this locality or almost any of the small streams that flow into the succeeding 200 miles of river, for the purpose of laying in a good supply of fresh meat, is worth considering. Moose meat that can be preserved until cold weather sets in will sell for a fancy price.

There is another suggestion to consider before arriving at Sixty Mile. All along that part of the river are many timbered islands, covered with tall, straight spruce. With such a influx of prospectors as are expected at Dawson City before winter begins, building logs will be in great demand. Cabin logs ten inches in diameter and twenty feet long sold at Circle City last year, in the raft, at $3 each. With an increased demand, and with better mines, the prices at Dawson

City may be much higher. Four men can handle easily a raft of 500 or 600 such logs. Getting them out would be a matter of only a week or two.

TO FIVE FINGER RAPIDS.

Within a few hours' run below Lake LaBarge is the Hootalinqua river, which drains Teslin lake, the largest body of water in the Yukon basin. This river has long been a locality of great interest to prospectors, because of the wide distribution of gold in its bars and tributaries. The metal is found everywhere on the whole length of the stream, but seems rather elusive when it comes to the test of actual mining. It has been prospected and worked sporadically for fifteen years, and in all that time the only Hootalinqua gold of any consequence taken out was found on Lewes river, a few miles below the mouth of the former stream, at Sassiar bar, where something like $150,000 was mined. It is deserted now for the better mines of the Alaskan side.

Five Finger rapids is one of the two or three obstructions that interfere with the free navigation of the river. A ledge of rock lies directly across the stream with four or five openings in it, that afford a scanty outlet for the congested current. The largest passage and the one commonly used is the one at the right shore. There is a considerable fall, but the water is not badly broken, the gateway being succeeded by several big waves, over which a boat glides with great rapidity, but with a smooth and even motion. Shooting this rapid is an exhilarating experience, but with careful management is not considered dangerous.

AT MILES CANYON.

Along the Lewes, which is the name given to that arm of the Yukon that rises near the coast and drains the chain of lakes, is a moderately hilly country, with an occasional mound 1,000 or 2,000 feet high, yet it is a landscape of infinite variety. Forests of young spruce, tall and straight, come down to the water's edge, and there are smooth, rounded hills covered

with grass like the great pastures of Montana, but separated by lines of cottonwood and birch. These curving lines of young deciduous trees, when taken altogether, have a strange resemblance to gigantic handwriting as they follow the moisture of the slight valley, and depressions between the cone-shaped hills.

Miles canyon, which is also called Grand canyon, is the first dangerous water that the navigator encounters. Although this section of the river has a normal width of more than 200 yards, it is confined for a distance of three-quarters of a mile to a space hardly fifty feet across, with perpendicular walls of red volcanic rock. This canyon is broken in one place—about midway—by a circular enlargement of the channel, which causes a whirlpool of wonderful suction at each side of the river.

INDIAN PACKERS.

The Indians are very capricious and uncertain. They have been reaping a harvest for several years by packing over the pass for the Yukoners and they are very shrewd in barter, and have naturally come to know the value of combination to sustain prices. Members of other tribes coming in to do packing are held in the same division as are "scabs" by the labor unions in the states, and so far the Chilkats have been able to almost name their own prices for work.

The average load for the men is 120 pounds, but thirty or forty pounds more is not uncommon, and as an example which may be taken as about the limit one husky Siwash carried an organ weighing 220 pounds over the pass. Not as many squaws as men are at work, and their loads average a little lighter. Generally every member of the family—and this may be understood to include the dogs—carries a pack. The dogs are loaded with from fifteen to fifty pounds, but it is necessary in some places for them to have assistance, and so their master puts down his pack and carries the dog and his load through some of the more difficult or narrow passages among the rocks, or across streams.

A striking custom which is worthy of note is that of cacheing supplies along the trail. Flour, bacon, blankets or whatever it may happen to be are left at any point to suit the convenience of the owner. A miner leaves a certain portion of the food upon which his life depends and goes on hundreds of miles in serene confidence that he will find it again when he comes back in the fall. Sometimes a tent or fly of ducking is put up for a shelter. If it is intended to leave the cache for several months a platform on four posts is erected eight or ten feet above the ground to protect it from dogs and wild animals. Hungry Indians pass this food every day and sometimes hungry white men, but it is rare indeed that a cache is maliciously violated. Of course there is a feeling of their dependence upon each other among these isolated men of the Yukon. If any one should come into the country without any supplies he would be received with poor grace, but should he come as the rest do, and by any misfortune lose his outfit, he is always welcome to a share anywhere he goes.

SUCCESSION OF STATIONS OVERLAND AND BY RIVER.

Juneau, Capital of Alaska, 100 miles to Dyea, 24 miles over hills to Lake Lindeman, first navigable waters, 6 miles to Lake Bennett, 26 miles to Caribou Crossing, 2 miles to Windy Arm, 5 miles to Tagish Lake, a few miles to Grand Canyon and White Horse rapids, 12 miles further, Chilkat Pass never used by miners. Lake Labarge, 28 miles to Hootalinqua river, 35 miles to Little Salmon river, 53 miles to Five Fingers Rapids, 6 miles to Rink Rapids, 55 miles to Old Fort Selkirk—Healy winters his boat "P. B. Weare" Pelly & Lewis R. R. 96 miles to White River, 10 miles to Stewart River, 70 miles to Sixty Mile Creek, 30 miles to Indian Creek, 20 miles to Klondyke River, 6 miles to Old Fort Reliance, 40 miles to Forty Mile Creek, just below Fort Cudahy, 170 miles to Circle City, 400 miles Yukon Flats to Lower Ramparts.

OUTFIT FOR THE OVERLAND TRIP.

Having decided to make the trip the outfit needed for the long journey down the river to the mines is of the greatest consideration. The actual necessities for the trip are given in a list below. The supply of clothes should be governed by one's needs, taste and purse. It is also desirable to take along a small, well-filled medicine chest.

LIST OF PROVISIONS FOR ONE MAN ONE MONTH:

Twenty pounds of flour with baking powder.
Twelve pounds of bacon.
Six pounds of beans.
Five pounds of dried fruits.
Three pounds of dessicated vegetables.
Four pounds of butter.
Five pounds of sugar.
Four cans of milk.
One pound of tea.
Three pounds of coffee.
Two pounds of salt.
Five pounds of corn meal.
Pepper.
Matches.
Mustard.
Cooking utensils and dishes.
One frying pan.
One water kettle.
Tent.
Yukon stove.
Two pairs good blankets.
One rubber blanket.
One bean pot.
Two plates.
One drinking cup.
One teapot.
One knife and fork.
One large and one small cooking pan.
Tools for boat building:

One jack plane.
One whipsaw.
One hand saw.
One rip saw.
One draw knife.
One axe.
One hatchet.
One pocket rule.
Six pounds of assorted nails.
Three pounds of oakum.
Five pounds of pitch.
Fifty feet of five-eighths rope.
Mosquito netting.
One pair crag-proof hip boots.
Snow glasses.
Medicines.

A NEW YORK STATEMENT.

Fare from New York to Seattle via Northern Pacific, $81.50.

Fee for Pullman sleeper, $20.50.

Fee for tourist sleeper, run only west of St. Paul, $5.

Meals served in dining car for entire trip, $16.

Meals are served at stations along the route a la carte.

Distance from New York to Seattle, 3,290 miles.

Days required to make the journey, about six.

Fare for steamer from Seattle to Juneau, including cabin and meals, $35.

Days, Seattle to Juneau, about five.

Number of miles from Seattle to Juneau, 725.

Cost of living in Juneau, about $3 per day.

Distance up Lynn Canal to Healey's Store, steamboat, 75 miles.

Number of days New York to Healey's Store, 12.

Cost of complete outfit for overland journey, about $150.

Cost provisions for one year, about $200.

Cost of dogs, sled and outfit, about $150.

Total cost of trip New York to Klondyke, about $667.

Number of days required for journey, New York to Klondyke, 36 to 40.

Total distance, Juneau to the mines at Klondyke, 4,650 miles.

Another one is:

Fare to Seattle over the Northern Pacific, $67.75.

Tourist sleeper, fare, $9.

Pullman sleeper, $18.

Meals, in dining car, $18.

Tourist meals at stations, $9.

New York to Seattle, in miles, 3,160.

Number of days en route, 7.

Steamer fare, Seattle to Juneau, with cabin and meals, $75.

Fare, with berth, $67.50.

Miles, Seattle to Juneau, 1,000.

Number of days, Seattle to Juneau, 3.

Cost of living in Juneau, per day, $2.

Steamboat, up Lynn Canal to Healey's Store, miles, 100.

Number of days to Healey's Store, 1.

Cost of complete outfit, with provisions for one year, $600.

Price of dog and sled outfit, 500.

Last steamer from San Francisco—berths already filled, Aug. 30.

Days of sailing from Seattle—Mondays and Thursdays.

Total distance in miles, 5,000.

Total days required for journey, 90.

Best time to start, April 15.

The following, too, is figured as the cost of necessary articles, when once the searcher for the golden fleece has reached the Klondyke:

Cost of shirts, $5.

Boots, per pair, $10.

Rubber boots, per pair, $25.

Caribou hams, each, $40.

Flour, per 50 pounds, $20.

Beef, per pound (fresh), 50 cents.

Bacon, per pound, 75 cents.

Coffee, per pound, $1.
Sugar, per pound, 50 cents.
Eggs, per dozen, $2.
Condensed milk, per can, $1.
Live dogs, per pound, $2.
Picks, each, $15.
Shovels, each, $15.
Wages, per day, $15.
Lumber, per 1,000 feet, $750.
Months that mining is possible during the year, May, June and July.

THE TEMPERATURE.

Owing to the popular association of the idea of extreme frigidity with the word Alaska many people will doubtless be surprised to learn that the average temperature in the Klondyke region during the four coldest months of the year is not ordinarily much lower than 20 degrees below zero.

The average winter's snowfall in that part of Alaska is only about two feet, whereas on the coast it is ten times that much.

"The reports of our agent at Fort Cudahy show that the average temperature at that point during the months of November, December, January and February last year was very close to 20 degrees below zero," said Mr. Weare. "The average for November was 17 1-2 degrees below; for December and January, 22 below, and for February, about 20 below. The lowest temperature recorded was 70 degrees below zero. The temperature for the month of September was, I think, about zero.

"The snow fall in the vicinity of Fort Cudahy is only about two feet during the winter, although it is as much as twenty feet along the coast, where the influence of the Japan current is felt."

CHAPTER IX.

TRANSPORTATION—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

When Travel Meant Hardships—Enterprise in Alaska—Building a Steamer—A Successful Launching—In the Shallows of the Yukon—A Perilous Trip—Life on the Way—An Arctic Costume—A Remarkable Shirt—Christmas on the Tananah River—Deserted by the Guide—Provisions Exhausted—Past the Rubicon—The Rush of the Present—Good Advice—When Winter Sets In—Fortune Hunters—Sailings from Seattle—Future Developments—The Greatest of all Questions—Customs and Police Post—Surveys for Railroads—Cassiar Central Railway—Railroad to the Klondyke—British Companies to Compete—New Routes—To Facilitate Travel—To Construct Telegraph Lines—Explains the Method—Horses and Dogs in Demand—For Transportation of Gold.

Many people who are filled with a yearning desire to become rich in the now notorious regions of the Klondyke have a dread of the journey and climate and consequently they stay away. If these people fear the hardships of the present means of transportation what must have been the prospect before the pioneer miners who penetrated the frozen northwest Picture long and arduous tramps over frozen rivers and snow-clad mountains through the wilds of Alaska in the middle of winter. Many perished in the attempt, but many more succeeded. The man who had set his mind upon reaching Alaska in those days had to be possessed of a very superior sort of resolution and courage.

ENTERPRISE IN ALASKA.

As many people know, the Alaska Commercial Company has long enjoyed a monopoly of the trade

with the Indians of the interior, in the neighborhood of the Yukon river, and with the white men who have been attracted to that country by the reports of rich placer gold mines. Having faith in the mineral resources of Alaska and believing that what was profitable for one might prove a paying investment for two, a few Chicago capitalists, consisting of John Cudahy, Porteus B. Weare, J. L. Fyffe, C. A. Weare and J. J. Healy, of Chilcat, Alaska, in the summer of 1892, organized the North American Transportation and Trading Company for the purpose of carrying on a general merchandise business with the miners along the Yukon and of buying furs from the Indians.

In order to participate personally in the establishment of their new enterprise, John Cudahy, the well-known packer, and P. B. Weare, of the Weare Commission Company, the latter accompanied by his son William, left Chicago for Seattle in June, at which point it was planned to purchase the lumber and machinery necessary to build a steamboat to be used in the carrying trade on the Yukon river. The party met with many vexatious delays in the furtherance of their project, so that it was July 6 before the steamer Alice Blanchard, specially chartered for the trip, left Seattle bearing P. B. Weare and son, John Cudahy, Capt. Healy, wife and maid, young C. H. Hamilton, who had been in advance of his Chicago employers, and a party of workmen engaged to build the river steamboat which was taken up on the Blanchard in sections. In addition the vessel carried a full and carefully selected stock of merchandise and miners' outfits, amounting in all to about 350 tons, which the new steamer was expected to convey to the company's trading posts on the Yukon.

BUILDING A STEAMER.

The Blanchard arrived at St. Michael's Island Aug. 2 after calling at Coal Harbor for water and at Ounalaska for coal. St. Michael's lies about eighty miles north of the mouth of the Yukon and is close to the mainland. Owing to the shallow water the Blanchard

was obliged to anchor about three miles from land. On going ashore it was found that the Alaska Commercial Company had fenced in a large part of the island, and its representatives refused to let the Blanchard unload on its claim. But the Chicago party very promptly staked out a claim of its own north of the other company's site, where a landing was effected and a new camp started.

A SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING.

The new boat was launched September 15, and christened the "Porteus B. Weare," in honor of the Chicago man. It is a stern-wheeler, 175 feet long, with 28 feet beam, and has a hold 4 feet deep. Light it draws only 16 inches of water, and when loaded with 350 tons the draught is less than four feet. Designed expressly for the Yukon, it was the largest boat on the river. The rival company at St. Michael's predicted the boat could never be slipped off the ways, and the builders themselves had many doubts regarding a successful launching, but fortunately the United States revenue cutter Bear happened along at a critical juncture and with a little help from her the P. B. Weare dropped into the water like a duck, to the intense relief of all interested.

IN THE SHALLOWS OF THE YUKON.

After she was launched the revenue cutter sailed for Ounalaska, taking the Messrs. Weare, John Cudahy, the contractor and fifteen carpenters. Nine days more were required to line up the machinery and put the cargo aboard. The latter consisted of some 300 tons of merchandise, a complete sawmill and a mining pump, making in all about 350 tons. Much difficulty was experienced at first in hiring native laborers, owing to the obstacles raised by the rival company, but the Chicago people proved equal to every emergency and finally won the Indians over, despite the bribes and threats of the opposition.

It was expected that the boat would be able to reach the company's headquarters, at Forty-Mile or Fort

Cudahy, before navigation closed, but after steaming a little over 500 miles up the river the ice was running so rapidly that further advance was deemed impracticable and Captains Healy and Barr decided to go into winter quarters at Nakooleykoket, the mouth of the Nagooley river. Prior to November 1 the weather had been pleasant, with only a few light falls of snow, but on that day the mercury dropped to 8 degrees below zero, and from then until Thanksgiving it ranged from 6 above to 34 below. The P. B. Weare was doomed to lie idle until the following May, when she would resume her journey to Fort Cudahy, where the main trading post was to be established.

A PERILOUS TRIP.

But in order to complete arrangements for sending in supplies the coming summer it was necessary to get word back to civilization, and the only way this could be done was for the messenger to make an overland journey of from 1,500 to 1,800 miles across the vast Yukon region of snow and ice to a place called Chilkoot, a small village on the coast and 80 miles from Juneau. Young Hamilton volunteered to make this perilous trip, and November 26, after securing a good supply of furs, he started on snowshoes for his destination, accompanied by four Nuloto Indians. His outfit, which weighed 1,000 pounds, was packed upon three sledges drawn by twenty-one dogs. His course lay up the Yukon river, where the traveling was less tedious and uncertain than on land. Here the snow was not so heavy and much harder, while along shore the dense brush and woods offered additional obstacles to the traveler.

LIFE ON THE WAY.

But the rough, up-piled ice often made the journey slow and difficult, and it was only when a smooth surface was struck that the dog teams could trot merrily along and compass a good day's travel. The largest run made was eighty miles in two days. The camp at night was a primitive affair, with nothing but a fly

tent to break the wind. The days were short, only five or six hours of light in clear weather. When the sleighs were drawn up and the dogs freed from the harness each was fed a half of a king salmon which weighed about seven pounds. This was the only ration they received all day, unless one except the snow, which they ate in quantities. The camp fire was usually made on top of fallen logs pulled close together. Water was obtained by melting the snow, and as soon as supper was eaten the travelers turned in to rest. Over a pile of brush young Hamilton would spread his bearskin. Then, wrapping himself in his rabbit-skin robe he slept soundly and securely until morning. Even when the thermometer marked 50 degrees below zero he suffered no difficulty from the cold, which failed to penetrate his warm furs. As soon as daylight dawned breakfast was eaten, the dogs were harnessed and the day's tramp began.

AN ARCTIC COSTUME.

A description of the young Chicagoan's fur clothing may prove interesting. His costume was nearly all of native workmanship, selected from beautiful skins. Trousers from the skin of a Siberian reindeer, with the hair side out, the color a glossy brown and the skin soft and pliable. Arctic socks, lined with soft flannel, worn inside the traveling boots of caribou, the latter made up with the hair outside, and the soles of sealskin. These boots reach nearly to the knees and are warm and durable. Other boots, both heavy and light, made from deerskin and trimmed with wolverine; the soles of sealskin, strong and shapely, the heavier ones shaped by the teeth of women, the lighter one of split skins shaped by means of a small stick.

A REMARKABLE SHIRT

Hamilton's shirt is a fawn skin; an outer wrap, or "parka," is of Siberian reindeer, trimmed with wolverine; under the hood of this he wore a close-fitting fur cap. When it was very windy he pulled over his head a beautiful parka of snow white fawnskin richly trimmed with wolverine and bear; the hood fitting

close about the face afforded ample protection from Alaska windstorms. In addition to his regular costume Mr. Hamilton brought with him to Chicago a handsome coat and vest of hair seal, trimmed with the white, wooly coat of a seal pup. These are lined throughout with squirrelskin and have buttons of walrus teeth. The bear and rabbit sleeping robes complete his outfit.

CHRISTMAS ON THE TANANAH RIVER.

At Nuklakiet Hamilton's party was joined by Rev. Mr. Prevost, in charge of the Episcopal mission at that place, who was anxious to visit some Indians on the Tananah river. He was gladly welcomed by the young men and together they traveled up the Yukon to the mouth of the Tananah, which latter river they followed for 350 miles. An early camp was made Christmas day, when each dog was given an extra large piece of salmon and a sort of holiday dinner was prepared for all. The bill of fare on that occasion was vermicelli soup, roast king salmon, roast rabbit, rabbit fricasee, slap-jacks, plum duff a la Tananah, tea, cocoa and water. Several Indian villages were passed before leaving the Tananah and at the last an Indian was engaged to guide the party up the Jesa river and over the divide to the head waters of Forty Mile creek.

"I learned," said Mr. Hamilton, "that the preceding summer had proved a very fair mining season, and though no rich finds were made everyone did well. Post-trader McQuestion told me he had taken in more gold than in any previous season since he had been in the country. There have been no new strikes, that of Miller creek, one of the tributaries of Sixty Mile, being the latest. But the entire country is rich in placer gold mines and a good hustler can make a profitable living. It is no country for a dude or lazy man; wages are from $8 to $10 a day during the season, which averages four and a half months. With the assurance of plenty of provisions now that we have gone into the country, the miner who goes to Alaska

with $500 in his pocket as a grub stake is reasonably assured of success. The miner told me the weather had not been unusually severe; 59 degrees below zero was the lowest record of the mercury."

At Forty Mile Rev. Mr. Provost's company was exchanged for that of John Reed, an old Yukoner, who has been in the interior over six years. Fresh dogs were bought, as the 800 miles of travel had been a trifle wearing on the teams. Among the new purchases were some fine specimens. One of them "Jack," was brought by Mr. Hamilton to Chicago as a present for Mrs. Weare; it is his picture that appears in the foreground in the group accompanying this article. Jack can pull a sleigh loaded with 300 pounds up and down hill day after day. Good dogs are getting scarce at Forty Mile and are worth $25 each; at Nulato, Hamilton's starting point, they sell for less than half that amount.

DESERTED BY THE GUIDE.

It was 48 degrees below zero and blowing a gale when Hamilton and Reed left Forty Mile Feb. 3. The latter did not have his face well protected and was severely frost bitten, but the weather moderated after they had been out twelve days and no more extremely cold weather was encountered until the travelers reached the coast range. They often went with their ears uncovered and without mittens. Seventeen dogs were left to pull their three sleds when they bade the miners good-bye at Forty Mile. They followed the river as before, because there was less snow on the ice than in the woods, but in places the running ice of the preceding fall had piled up twenty or thirty feet, so that progress was slow and labored, eight and ten miles often being a good day's journey.

It required thirteen days to reach Harper's trading post on the Pelly river. Here Hamilton understood he could replenish his stock of dried fish, but in this he was disappointed, and the dogs had to suffer. A sort of porridge made of oat meal and flour, with a little fish thrown in, was their daily diet henceforth.

Only two Indians remained with him, a Nulato, named Gal-e-cheetz, who had come all the way, and a guide called Jim, engaged at Harper's to show a short cut around the Rink rapids, and Five Fingers, of Lewis river. Jim did not prove a faithful guide; about forty miles out he deserted the party and put back for home, leaving the travelers to shift for themselves. Luckily he had given them a good description of the trail, and after a close search they struck the right lead and followed it for five days and finally came out upon the Yukon. The cut saved them a week's travel.

PROVISIONS EXHAUSTED.

The course was now up the Lewis and over the chain of lakes until the head of Lake Linderman was reached, the route over which nearly every miner in the interior has passed. The scenery was a never ending and scarcely varying succession of snow-covered lakes, rivers and hills. No smooth ice was encountered until the lakes were reached. White Horse rapids and the canon were passed without accident. Near the latter the river was open in the center and fairly boiled, but safe sledding was found at the side. Mud Lake, Taku, Bennett and Linderman were closed, but the connecting streams were open in the center. The snow on the shores of Lake Linderman was soft and fully four feet deep. Since leaving Pelly river there had been a high wind, which, however, had helped rather than retarded progress, as it lay at their backs.

On the night of March 15, at the foot of Lake Linderman, the last bit of fish and the last pound of flour were fed to the dogs, and those that were too weak to finish the journey Hamilton ordered killed. They were then nearing the coast mountains, the summit of which was only twenty miles distant. Would they be able to find the pass? was their constant anxious thought.

Next day they moved on up Lake Linderman, then three miles to the timber line, until half the journey to

the summit had been covered. Once over that and they were safe. Encounter a snowstorm in their present condition, with worn-out dogs and lack of supplies, meant prolonged suffering and perhaps death.

PAST THE RUBICON.

With seven dogs left they began the ascent and nobly the teams buckled to their work. Up, up, up they strain until at length the summit is reached, the pass is safely struck and there three miles below lies Sheep camp. A little daylight is still left and they determined to make the descent. The dogs are turned loose, the sleighs rough shod and started down. Over and over they go, but suffer no damage save a broken handle. Then the travelers essay the declivity. But their progress is neither slow nor dignified. The snow is so hard that the feet make no impression, so there is no alternative but to slide, and they do slide, part of the time feet foremost, again with their heads in the lead, both extremes changing places with startling rapidity.

Sheep camp is reached without any broken bones to be recorded, and here they pitch tent for the last time. At daybreak they move forward and a ten-mile spin brings them to Wilson's, on the Dyea, where Hamilton's long and plucky journey of 1,600 miles ends. Monday morning, March 20, the little steamer Yukon was boarded, which carried the young traveler to Juneau, whence he sailed without loss of time for Seattle. Monday, April 11, Mr. Hamilton reported to Messrs. Weare and Cudahy at the office of the North American Transportation and Trading Company in the Insurance Exchange building, where he received the hearty congratulations of his employers, who had been apprised of his coming by wire.

Mr. Hamilton has since made two more trips to Alaska, each time under more favorable conditions; and he is now the secretary of The North American Transportation and Trading Co.

THE RUSH OF THE PRESENT.

"It is the old California days over again," said P. B. Weare, of the North American Transportation and Trading Co.

"If two-thirds of the news from these Klondyke fields is true no human power will keep men from pouring into the Yukon country by the thousand. Here is a pile of over 100 letters, received this morning, and all asking about transportation to Klondyke. Funny? Well, I should say so. The number of men who want to get out there and haven't the price is really alarming. And the propositions they make are thoroughly amusing.

"Here is a letter from an old gentleman who says he dug gold in California in '49. Now, in his old age, the fever returns on reading of the Klondyke fields. He hasn't the money to go, but he feels sure that, once there, his experience will make him a sure winner, and he will divide his fortune with us if we will get him there. Here's another from a man who has a new scheme. He says it beats hydraulic mining all hollow. If we will transport him he will fix up his system and give us half of the first $50,000 that comes in and 10 per cent. of the remainder. Any number of men want to go on percentage arrangements and all say that if the fields are as rich as is reported we ought not to be afraid to stake them. I fear we cannot oblige very many of them.

GOOD ADVICE.

"The letters pouring in from people who know nothing of Alaska deserve mention and a few words of information and advice will be of value to the writers. In the first place, the boats which sail from Seattle this month are full—every passage taken. That means that any one who wants to go to Klondyke at this hour must wait for the August boats. And the journey is 7,000 miles. People talk about it as if it was walking across the street—going on a trip to Indiana. They don't realize what Alaska is—what the Yukon is. They will prick up their ears and need a map

to convince them of the truth that the country of the Yukon and its tributaries in Alaska and British America is as large as the whole United States east of the Mississippi—that it is longer than a trip to Europe before they reach the Bering sea and the mouth of the Yukon; that by the time they strike the Yukon the Alaskan arctic winter will be upon them.

WHEN WINTER SETS IN.

"By September 25 the winter settles down and the Yukon country is frozen solid till next May. That's a lovely prospect for the bold adventurers, isn't it? The men of real experience—men who know what Alaska is and what an arctic winter means—will postpone their trip till the spring. What then? Why, such a rush as the world hasn't seen since '49. The boats from Seattle to the Yukon's mouth will be crowded; thousands of men will force their way through the wild passes of the Chilkat and the Chilkoot and, reaching the headwaters of the Yukon, will build rafts and float down the river until they reach the town of Dawson—the center of the Klondyke country. They will come by myriads, and the only rule will be 'First come, first served.'

FORTUNE HUNTERS.

"All kinds of fortune-hunters come in here," said an official of the Union Pacific. Men dash in with gripsacks ready packed and warm schemes to get their transportation. There was one fellow in this morning who was a bird. He guaranteed, if we would pass him to the coast and fix him up with the steamer companies, to look the country over thoroughly and get a big excursion up when he returned, all the people, of course, to go by our road. I told him he had better wait till spring, because it would grow very cold up there and he might get his feet frozen and be unable to come back in time."

And so the whirl goes on and the railroads and the steamship lines look to see tens of thousands rush to the new El Dorado in the spring.

SAILINGS FROM SEATTLE.

Mr. Weare says: "Our steamer Cleveland, a special boat, leaves Seattle on or about August 5th, connecting with our river steamers. The steamer Portland leaves Seattle about August 20th. We are unable to carry any freight this year, as our freight room has all been taken, and on account of the necessity of carrying food and supplies to the interior we are obliged to limit our passengers in baggage allowance as above stated, with the exception of the last trip of the Portland, when passengers will be allowed 200 pounds of food supplies each in addition to the above baggage allowance. Our reason for this is that, owing to the late date of sailing, we may not be able to land passengers at Dawson or the upper river mining camps. If we are unable to complete the trip this fall, board will be furnished at about $2 per day until spring, when we will complete the trip on the river without extra charge to those holding through tickets. On the Portland's last trip we will carry none but strong, able-bodied men. It usually takes from 30 to 35 days to make the trip from Seattle to the gold fields. It is our endeavor to run boats on the river through to the Klondyke region, but owing to the difficulty of navigation and the many possible obstacles, including the shortness of the season, we may be obliged to tie up for the winter at Circle City or some point below Dawson. In this event men will be able to leave the boat and make the trip on foot. In selling you a ticket we agree to take you as far on the river as possible, but of course cannot agree to go to Dawson. The first boat in the spring leaves Seattle on or about June 12th."

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

At a recent cabinet meeting in Ottawa, Ont., Minister Paterson was authorized to send two more customs officers to the Alaskan boundary by the Islander. The men will be taken from the Victoria custom house. They will open stations, as outposts of Victoria, beyond the head of Lynn Canal, which is in

disputed territory and at present in the United States possessions, and at Lake Tagish. There is a collector at Fort Cudahy, only fifty miles from Dawson City, and these arrangements, backed up by a strong force of police, are considered ample for the protection of revenue just now.

THE GREATEST OF ALL QUESTIONS.

The greatest question of all is one of communication. It is reported that a pack trail exists for twenty of the eighty miles, which will separate the coast from the first post to be established at 60 degrees of latitude in undisputed British territory. If so, a narrow gauge railway can be built where there is a pack trail. The cost would be great, and if cars could be hauled twice a day over the mountains facing the coast a tremendous obstacle would be overcome, because in winter it is impossible to cross the mountains except at the risk of life.

CUSTOMS AND POLICE POST.

A strong customs and police post will be established just north of the British Columbia boundary, beyond the head of the Lynn Canal, at 60 degrees of latitude. Estimates will also be obtained of the cost of building a wagon road and of a narrow gauge railway to this post in the mountains, a distance of from seventy to eighty miles, about half of which is over mountains. This post, which will be where Chilkoot and White Passes converge, will command the southern entrances to the whole territory. Mounted police posts will be established at distances of fifty miles apart up to Fort Selkirk. These will be used to open up a winter road over which monthly mails will be sent by dog trains. If possible a telegraph line will be constructed over the mountains from the head of the Lynn Canal to the first post.

SURVEYS FOR RAILROADS.

Engineers have been employed in surveying a route for a railroad into the Yukon from Dyea. The road is to be built by a Canadian-English syndicate. The

work of survey was started as soon as the ice broke in the river. It has been completed the entire length of the line of rail, sixty-two miles, and forms an entirely new overland route to the placer fields on the north. Work will be begun early next year. When the new road is built it will revolutionize travel from Dyea into the Yukon.

The route surveyed leaves tide water at Skagawa Bay, close to Dyea, and runs in a northerly direction over the summit by White's Pass, through which a trail has just been completed. The new trail is 1,000 feet lower than Chilkat Pass, at which so much hardship is encountered by prospectors. The route will eliminate all the danger of the White Horse rapids and Miles Canyon, where now portages from one to three miles are made, and where so many gold hunters have lost their all, in having their supplies turned out of the boat into the water by the bowlders thickly studding the river.

CASSIAR CENTRAL RAILWAY.

It is stated in London that capital of $400,000 has been subscribed for the construction of the Cassiar Central Railway in the Cassiar district, northern part of British Columbia. The charter was granted the company at the last session of the Provincial Legislature, which also gave aid by the concession of a lease of 7,000 acres of land and the right to all minerals, including gold and silver found therein. Parties connected with Transvaal mining enterprises are behind the company.

RAILROAD TO THE KLONDYKE.

Fred Hitchings, who went to Alaska from Madison, this state, has written to friends that a valuable concession has been granted to him by the government of British Columbia.

It is a railroad route to the Klondyke mining district, and covers the shortest available route, starting from Juneau by way of the Taku river and Taslin lake.

The road will be 160 miles long, thence by lake and Lewis river to Selkirk.

Privileges of trading ports, a grant of 5,000 acres a mile, and a subsidy of $5,000 a mile go with it.

BRITISH COMPANIES TO COMPETE.

Unofficial information has been received at the treasury department to the effect that the British companies controlling steamer lines between ports in British Columbia and Alaska intended applying to the United States for permission to land at small places in Alaska not ports of entry.

The intention of the company is to secure advantage of the passenger and freight traffic which has become so valuable on account of the mad rush to the Klondyke gold fields. Under the provisions of the laws of this country foreign vessels are permitted to land only at ports of entry in the United States.

In Alaska Sitka is the only port of entry where a collector of customs is stationed.

There are several ports of delivery at which American vessels can discharge passengers and cargoes. These are Wrangell, Mary Island, Juneau, Sand Point, Kodiac and Unalaska.

NEW ROUTES.

Some prospectors intend to go by the route followed by Lieutenant Schwatka, who conducted an exploring party into the Yukon valley in 1889. This route starts from Takou inlet, thirty miles south of Juneau. From Takou to Lake Testin it is 130 miles over level prairies, and the country from Lake Testin is an open valley through to the Yukon river by the way of the Hooting Hua river. With the aid of pack horses the Takou route is by far the more preferable. It is possible that a stage line will be operated over this route.

For the last three years several local and English companies have been studying the lay of the land between Chilkat and Circle City, with a view to establishing a quicker and more practicable way of transportation to the rich gold fields along the Yukon.

Goodall, Perkins & Co. have made a thorough investigation of the matter. Capt. Charles Goodall said: "The rich find in the Klondyke district will probably result in some better means of transportation, though the roughness of the country and the limited open season will not justify anybody in building a railroad for any distance. Recently we sent several hundred sheep and cattle to Juneau, and from there to the head of navigation by the steamer Alki. Dalton, the man who discovered a trail across the country from Chilkat river to Fort Selkirk, is taking the live stock to the mines. His route lies from the head of navigation through Chilkat pass and across a route which is over a prairie several miles to the Yukon river, near Fort Selkirk. At this time of year the prairie is clear, and bunch grass grows on it in abundance."

TO FACILITATE TRAVEL.

Among other schemes a New Yorker has one which he thinks will greatly facilitate the journey inland from Juneau. It is his idea that the naphtha launches so popular here will prove of great service in Alaska. He hopes to take some to Juneau when he sails and says that if the weather is at all fair in Alaska they will be the means of saving a great deal of time. The only drawback to them is the danger of their being crushed in the ice.

TO CONSTRUCT TELEGRAPH LINES.

The Klondyke is promised close communication with the rest of the world in a short time. A telegraph company has been incorporated which will get to work immediately, its promoter says, stringing the wires.

Articles of incorporation of the Alaska Telegraph and Telephone company have been filed with the county clerk of San Francisco. The directors of the new company are C. W. Wright, Theodore Richart, D. E. Bohanon, J. W. Wright and J. F. Fassett. The capital stock of the organization is $250,000, of which $100,000 has been subscribed by the directors.

The proposition is to construct telegraph lines which will connect Dyea with the town of Dawson and branch lines connecting Dyea with Juneau and Dawson with Circle City. The estimated length of the proposed line is 10,000 miles.

The plan of construction will be after the style of military systems used in war times. A wire a quarter of an inch thick, covered with kerite insulation, will be used. The wire will be laid along the ground instead of being stretched on poles.

The company does not intend to have any telegraph communication south from Juneau unless some of the larger companies construct a line north from Puget sound.

EXPLAINS THE METHOD.

Mr. Bohannon, in explanation, said: "Our method is very simple. The line is to be constructed on the same plans as the ordinary military line used by armies for war purposes. We have a wire a quarter of an inch thick and covered with kerite insulation, which has proved able to stand the rigorous climatic conditions prevailing in Alaska.

"The wire is wound upon large reels, the same as an ordinary telegraph wire, and these coils are to be placed on dog sleds and dragged over the ice and snow. As we go along the reels will simply pay out the loose wire and run it along the ground, and thus our line will be through in something like six weeks, the time consumed in the ordinary tramp over the country."

Mr. Bohannon expects to leave for Juneau in the very near future, and will commence operations immediately upon his arrival there.

HORSES AND DOGS IN DEMAND.

A feature of the great exodus to the gold fields is the number of horses and dogs that are being taken north for packing purposes; 400 have already been shipped and the number will reach 1,000 by September 1.

Washington state is being scoured by buyers to

secure good cayuses of about 1,000 pounds weight and dogs weighing at least 90 pounds. Cayuses, which were worth $3 to $5 a month ago, are now worth $20 to $30.

The horses will be used in packing outfits over the Chilkoot and White passes from Dyea bay to Lake Linderman.

Packers are getting 15 to 20 cents a pound for carrying outfits from Dyea to Linderman, a distance of 31 miles. When cold weather comes many horses will be killed, frozen, and sold for dog meat.

Dogs are being taken clear to the Yukon for hauling sleds during the winter.

FOR TRANSPORTATION OF GOLD.

There is every probability that Wells, Fargo & Co. will establish an office in Dawson City during the coming spring. L. F. Rowell, assistant manager of the company, said that nothing would be gained by establishing an office earlier than that.

The present rate of transportation for gold from Seattle to San Francisco is $3 a thousand and $5 from Seattle to Philadelphia. If an office is established in the Klondyke district the rate per thousand, including insurance, will be $8.40.

CHAPTER X.

THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

Yankees at the Front—Secretary Sherman's Opinion—Canada's Greed—Canadian Regulations—Killing the Goose—Legal Difficulties Discussed by the Cabinet—Fort Alger—Fort Git There—An Expert Detailed—Canada's Action—Police for the Klondyke—British Columbia Sulky—Canadian Mining Laws—Dyea Sub-port—One Man Supreme—Canada Claims It All—"Throu-Diuck"—After Revenue—More Military Matters—Land Office Needs—Secretary Ryan Talks—Government Will Aid—Hermann's Recommendations—Congressional Action.

A statement is rife that political trouble on the Klondyke is pretty sure to be bred next winter by the Canadian government, which is smarting under the rates proposed in the Dingley bill, and is bound in some way to check the flow of gold from the placers there to this country.

A scheme which is sure to provoke violent resentment was detailed by Captain Strickland, late commandant of the mounted police on the Klondyke, on the passage down from St. Michael's to William Stanley, an American miner. Stanley was in partnership with three other men, and he took out $112,000 from a claim on El Dorado creek in ninety days.

Captain Strickland said the plan which he has already suggested and which the Dominion government was inclined to favor, provided they had a large enough police to be assured of carrying it out, was to pass a law prohibiting the export of gold except by Dominion officials. The gold dust brought in by the miners of all nationalities would be carefully weighed by officials of the Canadian government. A fixed value would be placed on the metal, according to assayers'

estimates, and this value would be paid in money of only local value.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OPINION.

Secretary of State John Sherman, having been interviewed as to what he thought of the reports that the Canadian government proposes to enforce the alien act against American miners on the Klondyke, said: "We have an alien law of our own. We have never enforced it against gold miners. Canadian citizens have been free to come into the United States and mine for gold under the same terms that our own citizens did. There has never been any friction over the matter.

"Where a man has taken up a land claim for the purpose of residence and cultivation we have always insisted that he be a citizen. The same has been done under the Canadian government.

"Where a man has simply prospected for gold with the intention of digging into the ground a little ways and taking what he could find from land against which there was already no claim, he has never been interfered with on our side of the boundary. I do not think that the Canadian government will change that course of procedure. If they do, it may lead to fully as much embarrassment to them as to our miners.

"From the meager reports already received it looks as if there might be as much gold on our side of the Alaska line as on theirs. I do not anticipate any serious trouble with our Canadian neighbors on that score."

CANADA'S GREED.

The action of the Canadian government in placing a heavy export duty on Klondyke gold and adopting radical methods to increase the revenue of the dominion was lately discussed by Chicago authorities on mining law.

John N. Jewett said that Canada has the right to govern its own lands whether the assessment is reasonable or unreasonable. He never heard of such a procedure before in mining countries, not even South

Africa or Australia. The United States never does it.

Edwin Walker said this tax for miners imposed by the Canadian cabinet is unreasonable, but there is no relief, because it is a decision from which there is no appeal. In America people who stake their claims on mineral lands are not subjected to such a tax, but it is only evident that Canada knows a good thing when she has it, and intends to make the most of it.

Charles M. Walker thought that Canada's right to govern the occupancy of her lands cannot be successfully challenged. The United States does not impose such a tax on miners, but it compels every man who stakes out a claim to be an American citizen, and the price of citizenship is perhaps treasured as very dear to many foreigners who come to this country to take up mineral claims. Canada will have a right to compel American miners to renounce their allegiance to the stars and stripes, as well as pay a tax to Canada, if they want to do business in the gold fields under the polar star.

C. A. Weare said that the tax will have the effect of driving prospectors over into the American territory. "I do not think," said Mr. Weare, "that this tax would necessitate the abandonment of any claims in the Klondyke district, for they are all so rich that the owner can feel sufficiently well off with his share. In these cases the law would simply mean that the Canadian got good pickings without much trouble. It is easy to see, however, that prospectors would be led to seek claims in American territory, for there are just as many rich streams there as on the other side.

CANADIAN REGULATIONS.

Some of the Canadian newspapers are already urging the exclusion altogether of Americans from the mines at Klondyke, but in all likelihood no such policy will be adopted by the government. Nevertheless, it is not intended that finders shall be keepers, or that gold mining shall be free. The Canadian government proposes to participate in the newly discovered wealth and receive an income from it. Every miner must pay a

registration fee of $15 and an annual assessment of $100. This must be paid as a preliminary and before prospecting begins. Next, the gold finder must pay a royalty of 10 per cent. on an output of $500 or less monthly, and 20 per cent. on all over that amount. This is tolerably heavy taxation, but this is not all. When gold claims are staked out in the future every alternate one shall be the property of the government, to be worked by it for the benefit of the public revenue.

Meantime our own government is acting with great promptness to afford every facility for those who intend to prospect in Alaska. Secretary Bliss has ordered a land office to be opened and a survey of the territory is to be made. Secretary Gage will establish an assaying office, while Secretary Alger has already ordered a company of soldiers to Circle City to provide all necessary protection for our citizens in the event of lawlessness or riot in a place where there is no law in force but miners' law.

Doubtless before another season passes there will be gold found on the Alaska side of the line, enough and to spare for all American prospectors, but up to this time the rich mines are on the Canadian side.

Gold hunters must take notice of this and be governed accordingly.

KILLING THE GOOSE.

The Canadian government may be about to kill the goose that lays golden eggs. The demands made upon every miner, without respect of age, sex, place of birth, or present nationality, are, firstly, a registration fee of $15; secondly, a yearly assessment, equivalent to a license, of $100; thirdly, a tax or royalty of 10 per cent upon the gross output of each mine or mining claim that yields at the rate of $500 or less per month; fourthly, a tax or royalty of 20 per cent upon the gross output of all mines of the value of more than $500 per month.

The wisdom of such policy is very doubtful. The cost of living and of operating mines in Alaska is very great; if 10 per cent be taken from the gross output

of a mine that yields, say, $200 per month it is questionable if anybody will think it worth while to work it. And to tax any industry to the amount of one-fifth of its gross product, in addition to a registration fee of $15 and a yearly assessment of $100 upon each person employed, is all but prohibitive. A more liberal policy might be more profitable to the government of the Dominion. Furthermore, the Dominion administration proceeds to enact that every alternate claim shall be staked out as property of the government, to be worked for its benefit. This will act as a prohibition on the employment of large capital in deep mining operations. For who will care to vest from $100,000 to $500,000 in a plant that can operate only a few feet of ground?

THE LEGAL DIFFICULTIES.

Legal complications which have presented themselves may yet intervene to prevent the detail of a company of United States troops to Alaska to assist in maintaining the peace in the Klondyke region. These complications presented themselves as soon as the subject was first broached and have been the source of some annoyance to the officials who feel that a law-preserving body of men is essential to the well being of the people who are flocking to the gold country.

The question was discussed by the president and Secretary Alger at the White Hourse tonight, but no decision was reached. Secretary Alger thinks the matter will be settled before the president's departure from the city tomorrow. The president and his cabinet hope that a satisfactory conclusion may be arrived at so that a detachment of soldiers can be sent to the territory.

The commander of the troops will be Captain P. H. Ray, a man well known for his soldierly ability and with a fine reputation as a leader of expeditions, having established the United States relief station at Point Barrow, the farthest north in Alaska. He wintered at this exposed and frigid place and is well

acquainted with the wants of the proected expedition.

Orders have been sent to San Francisco to provide everything necessary in the way of ample supplies of food and heavy winter clothing, and an order has been telegraphed to Philadelphia to send along a number of tents of a new description constructed to keep out the cold arctic winds.

FORT ALGER.

Vice President P. B. Weare of the North American Transportation and Trading company has been informed by Secretary of War Alger that, at the request of President McKinley, he had ordered Captain Abercrombie, with five other officers and fifty-six men of the Eighth infantry, now stationed at Fort Harrison, Montana, to proceed at once to the Yukon. They will proceed to Seattle and embark aboard the steamship Grover Cleveland.

The new post will be called Fort Alger, in honor of the secretary of war. It will be erected a few miles north of Circle City, and as near the northern boundary of the American possessions as possible. Circle City is about 250 miles down the Yukon from Dawson and the Klondyke gold fields.

No doubt the personal efforts of Secretary Gage served to secure prompt action on the part of the government in the protection of life and property in the new gold fields. The Canadian government has sent eighty men overland. They will establish a post at Dawson, just north of the American line.

Concerning transportation facilities on the Yukon for next season, Mr. Weare said:

"We have ordered all the material and machinery for an 800-ton light draft steamboat, up-to-date in every particular, including electric lights, to be built this fall at St. Michael's island. She will be named John Cudahy, and will be fitted for passengers as well as freight. The ship yard is at Fort Git There.

FORT GIT THERE.

"In the interests of correct American nomenclature, please get the name of the fort at St. Michael's island just as it is: Fort Git There. This is no antediluvian Russian name, but a real United States name. We gave it that name five years ago because we had such a time getting there.

"We are also building a very light draft steamer, which will run on eighteen inches of water. She will be called the Klondyke and will be employed to tow barges during the low water stage in the Yukon. We are constructing five 200-ton barges, which, when loaded, will draw not to exceed twenty-four inches. We have bought and will take to St. Michael's island a very powerful tug, which will be employed to tow barges with supplies from Fort Git There to the town of Weare, 500 miles up the Yukon. She will make two trips this fall.

"The mouth of the Yukon is choked up by drift in from the Bering sea until early in July, fully one month after navigation of the inner river has opened. We can do at least four weeks work inside before the mouth of the river is navigable. We shall winter all our boats about 400 miles from the mouth of the Yukon."

AN EXPERT DETAILED.

Recognizing the importance of the recent gold discoveries in Alaska and adjoining territory, and in obedience to the widespread demand for authentic information in regard thereto,the commissioner of labor has detailed from his regular force an expert, thoroughly familiar with all the features of gold mining, to proceed immediately to the Klondyke for the purpose of making a careful and exhaustive study of the conditions as they exist there.

It is the intention of the commissioner to embody the facts in a special report, or bulletin, of the department, which will appear at as early a date as possible.

Such a report as that contemplated, giving the unbiased facts as to the opportunities for the investment of capital and the employment of labor, wages, cost of living, etc., he believes will be of great value to the people of this country.

CANADA'S ACTION.

The minister of the interior in carrying out the policy of the government as to the imposition of the new royalties on the yield of the gold claims, decided to defer active measures until fully advised from officials of the government on the spot. It is realized that this tax and the preserving of every alternate claim will be regarded with resentment, and no attempt to enforce the regulations will be made until they have been thoroughly explained and the opportunity given miners of considering whether they will submit to the laws of Canada or quit.

Reports received by the government indicate that the jumping of claims, staking of claims for absentees and other fraudulent acts have rendered it urgently necessary in the interests of the miners themselves to take prompt action to strengthen the administration of the law, and with this in view the first batches of police leave as quickly as the men's outfits and supplies can be gotten together and forwarded.

Letters received from Klondyke since the publication of Government Surveyor Ogilvie's reports confirm his estimates of the value of the gold fields. Four million dollars per claim of 500 feet was an average shown on an estimated value of $5 a pan. The actual washings were $2 to $7, with many all the way from $10 to $50 and some over $200. This estimate applies to an extent of at least fifteen miles by actual results which may turn out to be three or four times as much. The estimate of the entire extent of gold streams in which gold can be found on the Canadian is put at 1,400 miles.

POLICE FOR THE KLONDYKE.

The Canadian Department of Indian Affairs has given urgent orders to the mounted police carrying

out the decision of the government to raise the force in the Klondyke gold fields immediately to 100 men. They are to go in squads of twenty and are to be the pick of the force.

Communications were opened with Washington submitting proposals that pending the final settlement of the exact delimitation of the boundary free passage may be conceded to Canada to the first police post in undisputed Canadian territory from Lynn Canal.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SULKY.

There is great excitement in British Columbia owin to the fact that Canadians are making nothing out of the fabulous finds in their own country. Live Americans have been the pioneers in the Canadian Yukon, as well as at Kootenai.

Prominent men and the press are demanding that the Dominion government place customs officials at the Canadian passes. At present Americans are paying no duty, and are getting their goods in Seattle and other American towns, to the great loss of British Columbia.

CANADIAN MINING LAWS.

A person going into the Yukon fields to prospect for gold who locates a claim in Canadian territory must be guided by the mining laws of that country. He must, therefore, bear in mind and obey these regulations, which are the principal features of the statute provided for governing placer miners and their locations of property. Following are extracts from the Canadian mining regulations:

7. If any person or persons shall discover a new mine and such a discovery shall be established to the satisfaction of the gold commissioners, a claim for the bar diggings 750 feet in length may be granted. A new stratum of auriferous earth or gravel situated in a locality where the claims are abandoned shall for this purpose be deemed a new mine, although the same locality shall have previously been worked at a different level.

9. A claim shall be recorded with the gold commissioner in whose district it is situated within three days after the location thereof, if it is located within ten miles of the commissioner's office. One day extra shall be allowed for making such record for every additional ten miles and fraction thereof.

11. Entry shall not be granted for a claim which has not been staked by the applicant in person in the manner specified in these regulations:

12. An entry fee of $15 shall be charged for the first year and an annual fee of $10 for each of the following years.

13. After recording a claim the removal of any post by the holder thereof, or any person acting in his behalf, for the purpose of changing the boundaries of his claim shall act as a forfeiture of the claim.

14. The entry of every holder for a grant for placer mining must be renewed, and his receipt relinquished and replaced every year, the entry fee being paid each year.

15. No miner shall receive a grant for more than one mining claim in the same locality, but the same miner may hold any number of claims by purchase, and any number of miners may unite to work their claims in common on such terms as they may arrange, provided such agreement be registered with the gold commissioner and a fee of $5 paid for each registration.

16. Any miner or miners may sell, mortgage, or dispose of his or their claims, provided such disposal be registered with and a fee of $5 paid to the gold commissioner, who shall thereupon give the assignee a certificate of his title.

17. Every miner shall, during the continuance of his grant, have the exclusive right of entry upon his own claim for the miner-like working thereof and the construction of a residence thereon, and shall be entitled exclusively to all the proceeds realized therefrom, but he shall have no surface rights therein.

18. Every miner shall be entitled to the use of so much of the water naturally flowing through or past his claim, and not already lawfully appropriated, as

shall, in the opinion of the gold commissioner, be necessary for the working thereof, and shall be entitled to drain his own claim free of charge.

19. A claim shall be deemed to be abandoned and open to occupation and entry by any person when the same shall have remained unworked on working days by the grantee thereof, or by some person in his behalf, for the space of seventy-two hours, unless sickness or other reasonable cause may be shown to the satisfaction of the gold commissioner, or unless the grantee is absent on leave given by the commissioner.

DYEA SUBPORT.

In view of the present rush of travel to the Klondyke gold fields Secretary Gage has established a subport of entry at Dyea, Alaska. The action was taken as the result of an application to the treasury department by Canada for permission for Canadian vessels to enter at Dyea, Alaska, and land passengers and baggage there. Dyea is about fifty miles north of Juneau, and it was desired to save passengers the annoyance of disembarking at Juneau and awaiting another steamer for Dyea, the head of navigation on this route to the Yukon frontier.

Vessels carrying men, provisions, and supplies will be allowed to proceed past Juneau to Dyea, where the supplies are to be put into bond and shipped over the short intervening stretch of United States territory to the British Columbia boundary line and thence to the Klondyke fields. All of the cabinet were agreed upon the course to be taken. In the brief discussion over the matter it was pointed out that it was not only a very neighborly action to take, but would be helpful to citizens of the United States as well. Nine-tenths or thereabouts of the men now rendezvoused in the gold belt belong to this country, it was stated, and failure to make the concession might deprive our own citizens of needed supplies. Beyond all this, it was intimated that in case the privilege was denied by this government Canada might take up the matter and by way of retaliation restrict operations upon such part

of the gold fields as are on Canadian soil to citizens of that government.

ONE MAN SUPREME.

In the Klondyke the sole representative of the law in the camp is the Canadian gold commissioner and a few mounted police.

The powers of the gold commissioner as far as regards miners' disputes are plenary. From his decisions there is no appeal.

The result is that all disputes over the location of claims are settled offhand and at once.

He simply calls all parties to the dispute before him, examines them himself orally, with such additional testimony as they have to offer, and forthwith renders his decision.

The whole matter may occupy from half an hour to half a day, and property rights to the value of $1,000,000 have been settled in this manner.

CANADA CLAIMS IT ALL.

A statement appears in the Canadian press, telegraphed from Washington, to the effect that the land commissioner of the United States government stated his intention to establish land agencies in the Alaskan country at Circle City and Dawson City. Canadian authorities draw attention to the fact that the gold fields are not in Alaska at all, but are in Canada.

Reference to the map shows that Dawson City is fully fifty miles east of Fort Cudahy, and Fort Cudahy is distinctly on the Canadian side of the boundary some considerable number of miles, and is a Canadian customs outport.

An eminent Canadian authority says every acre of mining district now being worked and every mile of the stream from which gold is being taken is in Canadian territory, as is the whole of the Thron-Diuck river, which begins at Dawson City and runs in a southeasterly direction, and as is the whole of the Yukon river from Fort Cudahy southward.

The Stewart river is entirely in Canadian territory,

as is also the major portion of Forty Mile creek and Sixty Mile river and their tributaries.

"THRON-DIUCK."

The government has been advised by Mr. Ogilvie and has adopted the advice to call the Klondyke district and river by the proper name of Thron-Diuck, which is the Indian name belonging to it and means "Fish Waters," the river being a great salmon fishing stream.

AFTER REVENUE.

The Canadian government is taking steps to secure largely increased revenue from the gold districts in the Yukon and Klondyke regions. Both the American and Canadian surveyors agree that the new Golconda, as far as at present developed, is practically all on Canadian soil. As a result effective measures are being planned to secure adequate payment from the miners working the claims.

The customs laws of the district were at first administered by the Canadian mounted police, who established posts at Cudahy and Forty Mile creek. During the first year, dating from the original discovery two years ago, they collected $15,000. Encouraged by the prospects thus foreshadowed, the government appointed D. W. Davis, a former member of parliament for Alberta, customs officer for the district, and his report, recently received, swelled the receipts to $35,000. It is believed that this sum will be greatly increased under the rigorous enforcement of the laws now planned.

MORE MILITARY MATTERS.

At present the government has no troops in that vast territory, and in view of the heavy immigration now going on and the possible danger to life and property from lawless characters it has been deemed expedient to establish a post.

The commercial interests of the territory are at the bottom of the movement, and have requested that a company of infantry and a Gatling gun brigade be

located at a post to be christened "Fort Alger," near the boundary line, about 250 miles west of Klondyke and 2,000 miles above the mouth of the Yukon river. The body of troops is asked for to support the civil authorities in the administration of law and for the protection of vested rights.

It was suggested that troops be marched over the Dyea overland route to the post, which will be erected by contract for government use if desired, but this will be impossible in view of the fact that the British law, like our own, would not permit the passage of foreign troops over British territory without special permission. Therefore the troops will be carried up the Yukon in a steamer, if the government consents to establish the post.

LAND OFFICE NEEDS.

The increasing number of gold-seekers in the Yukon basin, not only in the Klondyke region in British Columbia, but in Alaska also, has impressed officials of the government in Washington anew with the necessity of re-enforcing the agencies of the government in the latter. From Circle City, on the Yukon, during the last few months, have come the most urgent appeals and demands to have the mineral land laws of the United States extended over the surrounding region, and it is probable that in his first annual report to congress Secretary Bliss of the interior department will approve the recommendation of Commissioner Herrmann of the general land office, that this be done, and also that a fully equipped local land office be established at Circle City.

Of course neither of the things can be done until after authority has been given by congress. Among members of that body a strong indisposition has been manifested toward the extension of the powers and agencies of civil government over Alaska ever since the acquisition of the territory thirty years ago, because of the meager population and the apparent lack of necessity for such legislation.

It is not improbable that Maj. Lacey will visit

Alaska after the adjournment of congress and by personal investigation and observation try to discover what legislation in regard to the public lands in that territory would be expedient and wise in order to meet existing conditions.

SECRETARY RYAN TALKS.

First Assistant Secretary Ryan, of the interior department, who has jurisdiction of matters relating to territories, and who supervises the government of Alaska, talked interestingly regarding the strength of the government of Alaska and its resources for taking care of the citizens there.

"There is no disguising the fact that the force employed in the civil government in Alaska is entirely inadequate," he said, "if there is any appreciable increase in the population at points remote from the towns where the government officials are now located.

"We are limited by the law to a fixed number of officials, and, while an effort has been made to increase the force, congress has only authorized four additional commissioners and four deputy commissioners. The active force in the territory that has to carry on the civil government is small. The police force, as you might term it, consists of a United States marshal and eight deputy marshals, eight United States commissioners, and eight deputy commissioners. Of course, in case of trouble the marshal could exercise the power of a high sheriff and summon the posse comitatus."

GOVERNMENT WILL AID.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson believes that congress at its next session will authorize the establishment of an agricultural experiment station in Alaska. He said to-day he had no doubt the people in some parts of Alaska would be able to produce their own vegetables, and to some extent the cereals they will need. The hardy classes of animals, he said, also, could be raised there. The cattle from the mountains of Scotland, he believed, could be raised successfully in Alaska, but so far as is known now the mining

regions in the vicinity of the headwaters of the Yukon river are about a thousand miles away from any part of Alaska in which agriculture could be successfully pursued.

Recognizing the importance of the great gold discoveries in Alaska and adjoining territory, and in obedience to the widespread demand for authentic information in regard thereto, the commissioner of labor has detailed from his regular force an expert, thoroughly familiar with all the features of gold mining, to proceed immediately to the Klondyke for the purpose of making a careful and exhaustive study of the conditions as they exist there. It is the intention of the commissioner to embody the facts in a special report or bulletin of the department, which will appear at an early a date as possible.

This is a subject of absorbing interest to all classes and in making this investigation the commissioner feels that he is working in the interest of the unemployed. Such a report as that contemplated, giving the unbiased facts as to the opportunities for the investment of capital and the employment of labor, wages, cost of living, etc., he believes will be of great value to the people of this country.

HERMANN'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

Commissioner Hermann of the general land office will recommend the establishment of two land districts in western Alaska, and two offices to be placed on the Yukon river or its tributaries, in anticipation of a great number of contentions over mineral land locations in various sections where the gold discoveries have been made.

He says that as that region is practically without law, especially as to the settlement of contests, the local land office will be of inestimable value to the land interests and indirectly to the preservation of law and order.

The offices, it is probable, will be located at Circle City and Dawson City. The general land office is in hourly expectation of petitions and requests for such action.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

In the National House of Representatives on July 22nd Mr. Lacey of Iowa secured unanimous consent for the consideration of a bill to attend the act creating a civil government in Alaska.

It was identical with the bill passed by the house at the last session, creating a surveyor general and a register and receiver of the general land office.

It, however, contained an additional feature empowering the president to create an additional land district.

Mr. Lacey explained that the Yukon gold discoveries rendered an additional land office imperative.

In answer to a question, he said the gold fields lay in both the United States and British North America.

The Klondyke region was in Canada.

The bill was passed.

CHAPTER XI.

THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA.

Early History of Alaska—The Purchase of Alaska—Early Day Statistics—Character of the Population—Principal Industries of Alaska—The Country and Its Extent—Before the Purchase—The Great Yukon—Boundary Line—Alaskan Dogs.

The northwest coast of that part of America embracing Alaska was discovered and explored by a Russian expedition under Behring in 1741; and at subsequent periods settlements were made by the Russians at various places, chiefly for the prosecution of the fur trade. In 1799 the territory was granted to a Russo-American fur company by the Emperor Paul VIII., and in 1839 the charter of the company was renewed. New Archangel, in the island of Sitka, was the principal settlement, but the company had about forty stations. They exported annually 25,000 skins of the seal, sea-otter, beaver, etc., besides about 20,000 sea-horse teeth. The privileges of the company expired in 1863, and in 1867 the whole Russian possessions in America were ceded to the United States for a money payment of $7,200,000. The treaty was signed on 30th March, and ratified on 20th June, 1867, and on 9th October following, the possession of the country was formally made over to a military force of the United States at New Archangel. It still remains in the military keeping of the United States, no steps having been taken to organize a territorial government. It has, however, been constituted a revenue

district, with New Archangel, or Sitka, as the port of entry. Since Alaska was ceded to the United States considerable information has been collected as to the resources of the less sterile parts of the country; but the central and northern parts of this region are only known as the inhospitable home of some wandering tribes of Indians and Esquimaux. Portions of Alaska have also been recently explored by the employes of the Russo-American Telegraph Company in surveying a route for a line of telegraph which was designed to cross from America to Asia near Behring Strait, a project which was abandoned, after an expenditure of 600,000 pounds, on communication with Europe being secured by the Atlantic cable.

THE PURCHASE OF ALASKA.

With an area of 577,390 square miles, Alaska was acquired by purchase from Russia March 30, 1867, the treaty being ratified June 20 of that year, and the transfer completed in October. The negotiations were made through W. H. Seward, Secretary of State, and the purchase price was $7,200,000. The exact boundaries of the territory were not known at the time, and they are yet in a state of interesting uncertainty, depending largely on the annals of the Russian missionaries and on the scant records handed down by the Hudson Bay company.

EARLY DAY STATISTICS.

When Alaska was annexed the population was stated by the Russian missionaries at 33,426, of whom but 430 were whites. The mixed race, termed creoles —counted 1,756, and were the practical leaders, using the Indian tribes for hunting and fishing. Fur trade and the fisheries were at that time the only known resources. As early as 1880, however, the sea otters shipped represented a value of $600,000, the fur seals over $1,000,000, the land furs $80,000, and the fisheries from $12,000 to $15,000.

Mineral riches were hinted at by the early explorers. In 1885 the Director of the Mint credited Alaska with

$300,000 in gold and $2,000 in silver, the chief contributor being the Alaska mill at Douglas City. In 1896 the gold product reached $1,948,900, showing a gain over 1895 equal to $386,100. For 1897 the gold output is placed by good judges at not less than $10,000,000, which is nearly twice that of Colorado in 1892.

CHARACTER OF THE POPULATION.

The census enumeration of 1890, though, gave the population of the territory as 30,329, of whom 4,416 were whites, 82 blacks, 1,568 half-bred Indians and Chinese and 8,400 Esquimaux. The number of whites has probably been more than doubled since then, however, as the Alaskan gold fever set in in mild form three or four years ago. One would hardly think of going to Alaska for the social advantages of the place.

PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES OF ALASKA.

When travelers were asked as late as two or three years ago what were the principal pursuits in Alaska they replied, of course, that fishing and hunting furnished occupation for the greater part of the population. What else was to be expected from a population made up mainly of Esquimaux and Indians? In the Sitka district there are magnificent forests and lumbering is an industry, but in the barren, icy north the occupation of the Indian was to shoot and trap the bear, the fox, the otter and the other animals whose fur would bring a price in the markets of the world, to catch the seals and spear the whale and catch the other fish or game that could be turned into money. Salmon canning is the great industry of the Kadiak district, and has been for years.

Of late, however, and particularly within the past few weeks, the other industries of Alaska have sunk almost out of sight because of the new gold flurry. Mining, of course, is the industry of the white man. Virgin gold might have lain in plain sight in the rocks to a limitless extent and in all probability the Indians

and the Esquimaux would never have touched it. Food and furs are the standard of value with them. Gold fills no Esquimau stomachs and keeps no Esquimau body warm.

But with the white man it was different. He came, he saw, he dug, and in the digging he found riches. Glittering gold greeted his eyes, and the fever of gold is upon us.

THE COUNTRY AND ITS EXTENT.

The name "Alaska" is a corruption of Al-ay-ek-sa, the name given by the native islanders to the mainland, and signifies "great country." It contains nearly 600,000 square miles of territory, or is nearly one-fifth as large as all the other states and territories combined. It is larger than twelve states the size of New York.

The distance from the center of the United States is about 6,500 miles via the Yukon and via the Chilkoot Pass about 4,000. The cost of a trip either way is about $300 and it takes thirty days to make it.

The miner of Alaska looks to the Yukon country for a reproduction of the scenes of the Cassiar and Cariboo districts. That along that river and its numerous tributaries there are millions of dollars hidden in the sands or locked within the mountains, rock-bound walls there can be no doubt. For several years the more adventuresome of our placer miners have been going to that Mecca of the North—Forty-mile creek. Many of them have returned after one or two seasons' sojourn none the richer, save in experience; others have struck it rich and made for themselves snug little fortunes, and a thousand others are wintering there now hoping that next summer may bring them that good luck for which they have so long waited.

The Yukon country will never be anything but a mining one. It is a country of great mineral wealth, very extensive, and the nature of the country is such that it will take centuries to exhaust it. There is a large area of country yet unexplored. Interior trans-

portation is difficult. Cost of living necessarily quite high; yet, compared with the opening of other new countries, very moderate.

Yet this country is so vast, covered with a net-work of virgin streams, all of the known mineral wealth that the opportunities are almost unlimited, and no hardy, energetic man, physically fitted and financially fixed, who has the courage and determination to face the particular hardships and privations of prospecting and mining Alaska's interior, need hesitate for fear that the field will all be taken.

There is no opening in the mercantile line, owing to the difficulties of transportation. At the trading posts there are large stores, well stocked with all kinds of general merchandise, and they supply the miners with everything they can possibly need, and at very reasonable prices.

BEFORE THE PURCHASE.

Very little was known of the aborigines of the Yukon valley before the purchase of Alaska.

The Russian fur company had two trading stations in the country, one at St. Michael's, and the other about six hundred miles up the Yukon river, at a place called by the Indians Nulatto (place of dog salmon), from which point they made annual trips as far up as the mouth of the Tanana river, for the purpose of trading with the natives of that region. It was wholly to the advantage of the company to let as little as possible be known of the interior, as by so doing they were not so likely to have other people coming into Alaska, seeking their fortune in furs, which would take away some of the large profits which they gained in the vast fur trade which they had at that time.

The Indians at the time of the purchase of Alaska were a wild lot of savages, who had not the remotest idea of Christianity, and were guided wholly by the "shaman," or medicine man, whose word was law, and whatever he said or did was taken as a fact by them and not to be disputed.

From the delta of the Yukon to the Tanana, the customs of the Indians were the same, and one description will suffice for the different tribes living in the above named portion of the valley.

From the middle of June to the middle of August, they were engaged in catching and drying salmon and other fish for their winter use, after which time they went to the mountains for their fall hunt, the caribou being their principal chase, the skins of which were used for clothing.

After their fishing and fall hunting seasons were over, and the long cold winter came on, they went into their "Barbaras," or underground houses, where they remained during the coldest part of the winter, visiting, feasting and dancing.

About the first of February, their provisions having given out, they went to the mountains in search of game for food, and from that time on, while the trapping season lasted, they made their largest catch of furs. From the Tanana, up the Yukon, the Indians lived a little different, though their pursuits were about the same; they lived together in deer-skin lodges in the winter, the underground houses not being used by them at all. At that time a tent, pants, shirt, hat or any civilized clothing was a rare thing among them.

Since the Alaska Commercial Company established trading stations along the river, there is a vast change noticed among the natives; now, in the summer time, they live in good drill tents, and since the missions have been established they have given up their underground houses, and have built good comfortable cabins that have stoves, and dress better, and are cleaner and far healthier than formerly.

THE GREAT YUKON.

What the Amazon is to South America, the Mississippi to the central portion of the United States, the Yukon is to Alaska. It is a great inland highway, which will make it possible for the explorer to penetrate the mysterious fastnesses of that still unknown

region. The Yukon has its source in the Rocky mountains of British Columbia and the Coast Range mountains in southeastern Alaska, about 125 miles from the city of Juneau, which is the present metropolis of Alaska. But it is only known as the Yukon river at the point where the Pelly river, the branch that heads in British Columbia, meets with the Lewis river, which heads in southeastern Alaska. This point of confluence is at Fort Selkirk, in the Northwest Territory, about 125 miles southeast of the Klondyke. The Yukon proper is 2,044 miles in length. From Fort Selkirk it flows northwest 400 miles, just touching the Arctic circle; thence southward for a distance of 1,000 miles, where it empties into Behring Sea. It drains more than 600,000 square miles of territory, and discharges one-third more water into Behring Sea than does the Mississippi into the Gulf of Mexico. At its mouth it is sixty miles wide. About 1,500 miles inland it widens out from one to ten miles. A thousand islands send the channel in as many different directions. Only natives who are thoroughly familiar with the river are entrusted with the piloting of boats up the stream during the season of low water. Even at the season of high water it is still so shallow as not to be navigable anywhere by seagoing vessels, but only by flat-bottomed boats with a carrying capacity of four to five hundred tons.

A further fact must be borne in mind. The Yukon river is absolutely closed to travel save during the summer months. In the winter the Frost King asserts his dominion and locks up all approaches with impenetrable ice, and the summer is of the briefest. It endures only for ten or twelve weeks, from about the middle of June to the early part of September. Then an unending panorama of extraordinary picturesqueness is unfolded to the voyager. The banks are fringed with flowers, carpeted with the all pervading moss or tundra. Birds countless in numbers and of infinite variety in plumage, sing out a welcome from every tree top. Pitch your tent where you will in midsummer, a bed of roses, a clump of poppies and a bunch

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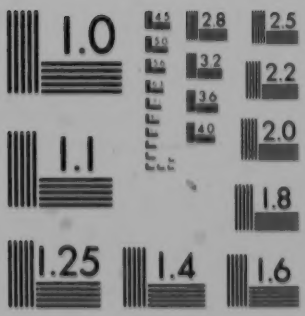

MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS-1963-A

of blue bells will adorn your camping. But high above this paradise of almost tropical exuberance giant glaciers sleep in the summit of the mountain wall which rises up from a bed of roses. By September everything is changed. The bed of roses has disappeared before the icy breath of the Winter King, which sends the thermometer down to eighty degrees below freezing point. The birds fly to the southland, the white man to his cabin, the Indian to his hut, and the bear to his sleeping chamber in the mountains. Every stream becomes a sheet of ice, mountain and valley alike are covered with snow.

That part of the basin of the Yukon in which gold in greater or less quantities has actually been found lies partly in Alaska and partly in British territory. It covers an area of some 50,000 square miles. But so far the infinitely richest spot lies some one hundred miles west of the American boundary, in the region drained by the Klondyke and its tributaries. This is some three hundred miles by river from Circle City, which marks the extreme limit beyond which even flat bottom boats cannot find a navigable passage.

BOUNDARY LINE.

The first attempt at defining the Alaskan boundary was made by Lieut. Schwatka, who in 1883 made a rough and necessarily crude survey of the Lewes and Pelly-Yukon rivers from their head to Fort Yukon, situated near the mouth of Porcupine river, a distance of about 500 miles. Lieut. Schwatka determined the position of this meridian line from his survey and located it at the mouth of what is now known as Mission or American creek, on the headwaters of which valuable discoveries of gold are now being made on the Alaskan side.

In the meantime the Canadian mounted police are maintaining order and making judicial awards in mining disputes, without any particular regard for the line. In relation to this question I often hear the wish expressed that the contention will be finally sett led by our government buying all the Canadian territory west

of the Mackenzie and north of Portland canal. The statement that has often been made that the gold is all on the Alaskan side of the line is extremely misleading. It is true that the present balance seems to be rather in favor of the Birch creek district as a placer ground, but the heart of the ultimate quartz field—where much the greater value lies—will possibly be higher up the Yukon and across the line.

ALASKAN DOGS.

One of the first things to attract attention throughout the entire Yukon basin is the great number of dogs. They are closely related to the wolf, and if they are not natural born thieves, they are nothing. They usually celebrate the arrival of all newcomers by a general fight. They will steal anything from a pair of boots to a side of bacon. They manifest a great degree of cunning in their attempts at stealing. Snowshoes, dog harness, and the like, as well as all kinds of uncanned meats, have to be cached. This is done by erecting a strong house upon posts, twelve or fifteen feet above ground, for the safe keeping of all such articles. As previously stated, these dogs are used in freighting to the mines in winter. An additional charge of two cents a pound is made on bacon and all uncanned meats on account of the extra trouble to keep that class of goods from the dogs. The howling of wolves would be pleasant music compared with the howling of these dogs at night. Under the least provocation, in the calm of night, one will start in and almost simultaneously every dog within five miles will join in a general uproar. They often continue their howlings for hours. In spite of all these inconveniences the dog is to the inhabitants of Yukon what the reindeer is to the Laplander, the horse to the inhabitants of the plains. In winter they are hitched to a sleigh and in summer loaded with packs.

CHAPTER XII.

RESOURCES OF ALASKA.

Early Prospectors—Mines of the Kootenay—Alaskan Mineral Belt—First Discovery of Gold in the Yukon Valley—Gold All Over Alaska—Where Is Klondyke?—An Unknown Region—Very Rich Yields—Prospects in the Side Gulches—May Make a Row—Dominion Government Stirred—Charges Land Grabbing—New Post Being Constructed—Alaska Richer Than Klondyke—A Very Fortunate Circumstance—Great Treadwell Mine—Method of Placer Mining—Sluicing for Gold—Relative Cost of Mining Gold—Importance of Second Treatment—Prospects for Big Yields.

Indubitable evidences have been coming from Alaska for years that the region along the Upper Yukon, now so much talked of as the Klondyke, is immensely rich in placer gold. Long ago men returned from that country who told of its richness and who were anxious to go back with the necessary supplies to develop the mines. They had only been prepared to make the slightest investigation and hence came back poorer than they went. This of itself was an argument against their statements and theories on the subject, and therefore they were unable to enlist the needed help. There were those, however, who believed these stories, but they were not possessed of sufficient means to outfit the prospectors. Some of them had sufficient courage and brawn to go to the promised Eldorado, and with the returned ones as guides and some "on their own hook" made the arduous journey, and now from those, and other persons, who have, in one way or another, been led to seek for fortunes amid the

snows and glaciers, mountains and turbulent streams of Alaska, comes news that has sent a thrill of excitement throughout the world.

MINES OF THE KOOTENAY.

During the last year or two, however, newspapers, in the Northwest particularly, and elsewhere, sporadically, have published numerous articles descriptive of the mineral deposits in British Columbia just north of the Washington state line, and of the wonderful developments of all those regions. It may be safely said that this information made little impression. The Kootenay has given way to the Klondyke, and now everything pertaining to British Columbia and Alaska is of intense interest to millions of readers.

ALASKAN MINERAL BELT.

In acquiring the Alaskan territory, though the United States moved its center, figured in geographical miles, not in area or population, as far west as San Francisco. The country now extends from about the 65th degree of longitude up at the far east corner of Maine to the 122d degree up at the far northwest tip the little island of Attu, 1,000 miles out in the Pacific, beyond the Hawaiian group, which, since the purchase of Alaska, has really been our western land limit.

FIRST DISCOVERY OF GOLD IN THE YUKON VALLEY.

In the spring of '83 four miners, namely, Charles McConky, Dick Poplin, George Marx and Ben Beach, outfitted in Juneau to prospect the interior. Crossing the divide in the early spring, they reached the lakes which constitute the head waters of the Yukon river, while they were yet frozen, and remained there building their boats preparatory to going down the river as soon as the opportunity availed. The boats built and the ice having disappeared, they continued their journey on the unknown waters of the Yukon.

Upon arriving at the mouth of Stuart river and being favorably impressed that their fortunes lay in that

direction, they proceeded to stem this stream in the hopes of finding things more favorable, as they had seen nothing that they had considered diggings up to that time. They had traveled about four miles up this river when they came to a bar that carried gold of a fine order, and then continued up the river, finding many bars which afterwards worked to the satisfaction of the owners.

GOLD ALL OVER ALASKA.

Dr. C. F. Dickenson, of Kodiak island, which lies just at the head of Cook's inlet, recently said: "When I left Kodiak the people were leaving all that section of country and flocking in the direction of Klondyke. In a way, the situation is appalling, for many of the industries are left practically without the means of operation.

"Mines that were paying handsomely at Cook's Inlet have been deserted.

"In my opinion there are just as good placer diggings to be found at Cook's Inlet as in the Klondyke region.

"There is not a foot of ground in all that country that does not contain gold in more or less appreciable quantities.

"There is room there for thousands of men, and there is certainly no better place in the world for a poor man."

There is good reason for believing from the reports of men well acquainted with the whole region that there is gold to be found anywhere in Alaska. But the people rushed to Klondyke as though all the rest of the territory was pest ridden.

WHERE IS KLONDYKE?

Where are the richest of the mines in the Alaska region?

They seem to be in the Klondyke, a few miles over the British border. They were discovered, as has been said, by a party of "tenderfeet," who, against the advice of the old-timers in the district, wandered

"over yonder in the Klondyke" and struck it rich. From Klondyke comes much of the gold and from Klondyke seems to come all the excitement. A few "tenderfeet," going it blind, have stirred up the nation. Out of the region of their discovery has come, it is estimated, $2,000,000 worth of gold during the present summer. Nearly all of that gold has found its way into the United States.

It is hard to tell where the Alaskan gold fields are located except that in a general way the best of them are along the Yukon. There are a few "lode" mines near Juneau and along the southeast coast of the territory (the most accessible part of it), but the ore is of low grade and mining is made profitable only by the most careful management.

AN UNKNOWN REGION.

The placer mines, from which prospectors are said now to be lining their pockets with gold, occupy the prominent place in the popular mind. These are in the region remote from civilization, little known, and, on account of its uncertainties, dangerously alluring to the average man. This gold-producing country is in the vicinity of the Yukon near where that great river turns to the west. Before the discoveries in the Klondyke the most productive districts had been along Forty Mile creek, partly in British and partly in American territory, and the Birch creek district, all in American territory.

VERY RICH YIELDS.

The Klondyke is a stream emptying into the Yukon, eighty miles above the boundary line of Alaska, in the British Northwest Territory. It is supposed to be about 125 miles long, heading in the Rockies, and is a rapid river running in a northerly direction. Bonanza creek, coming in one and one-half miles up from the mouth, is twenty-five miles long, and heads at the Dome, a big, bold hill, as do a number of lesser creeks. It runs southwesterly. El Dorado comes in twelve miles up, and is seven miles long, running in

the same general direction as does Bonanza. The pay on Bonanza is good from the 60's below the point of discovery, where one claim has 20 and 25 cent dirt, with the pay 125 feet wide, up to forty-three above, claim No. 41 being very rich. Gold on Bonanza is finer than on El Dorado. There is not a blank up to No. 38, and there are some good claims above that number. The richest claims are in the middle of the gulch, the gold there being coarse, with lots of nuggets. This, with the fractions of claims, makes nearly twenty miles of paying ground.

PROSPECTS IN THE SIDE GULCHES.

In addition there are a number of side gulches on which good prospects have been discovered. Bonanza district, it is estimated, is likely to produce not less than $50,000,000 in gold, and this is believed to be an underestimate than otherwise. Hunker creek empties into the Klondyke twelve miles up and is twenty miles long. In places $2 and $3 to the pan on bedrock have been found, and the indications are that it will prove a rich-paying creek. Gold Bottom, a fork, and Last Chance, a side gulch, show up equally well for a considerable distance. These comprise, with Bear creek, which comes into the Klondyke between Bonanza and Hunker, the extent of territory of which anything certain is known. Quartz creek and Indian creek are reached from the heads of Bonanza and Hunker and they have also some prospects. The country rock is slate and mica schist. Many of the nuggets are full of quartz.

MAY MAKE A ROW.

On the Pacific coast the gold excitement has brought up the issue of the Alaskan boundary. From being a minor question of geography to be adjusted at some odd interval, the boundary now presents economic and political features of high importance.

It is declared that there is the making of an international row on the Yukon.

"Whatever doubt has been cast upon the fact of the

whole Klondyke district being in British Columbia must have arisen from a misunderstanding of the dispute existing upon the proper location of that part of the boundary line lying eastward and southward of Mount St. Elias. The north or meridian line of the boundary has been accurately determined.

DOMINION GOVERNMENT STIRRED.

The Dominion government claims to be in possession of authentic reports corroborative of the first accounts sent out of the marvelous richness of the new placer diggings in the Yukon and Klondyke regions, and the organization of the district will be completed.

Two years ago the Department of the Interior dispatched a force of 20 northwest mounted policemen to Fort Cudahy, on the Canadian side of the Alaskan frontier.

This work of organization was first suggested to the government by the North American Trading and Transportation Company, which was anxious that the British territory should be administered so as to guarantee the safety of its interests.

It was not undertaken by the Dominion authorities, however, until the surveying parties then in the field had more or less definitely located the 141st meridian of west longitude, which forms the boundary between Alaska and the Canadian northwest territory from Mount St. Elias to the shores of the Arctic.

CHARGES OF LAND GRABBING.

When this had been accomplished and the erection of police posts began, grumblings from the Seattle and other American coast newspapers reached the ears of the government here.

It was boldly charged that the Canadians were grabbing territory in Alaska that did not belong to them. William Ogilvie, chief of the Canadian internal boundary survey, set all doubts at rest as regards the Canadian posts by reporting that the observations of the Canadian and American parties as to the boundary differed but a few feet—six feet at Forty Mile camp and six at Cudahy.

NEW POST BEING CONSTRUCTED.

Constantine's last report, which has just been received, says that he is building a third post at the mouth of the Klondyke river, which flows into the Yukon on the east side, about 50 miles southeast of Forty Mile. He has asked for a larger force.

In this his suggestion has been anticipated, as well as in the appointment of a gold commissioner, while a Pacific coast firm is being negotiated with for the supply of a steam launch to ply as police boat between Klondyke, Forty Mile and Cudahy.

ALASKA RICHER THAN KLONDYKE.

A scientific expert of the coast survey declares that there are richer gold fields in Alaska than Klondyke. He says:

"I went through Alaska as a member of the boundary commission, and am very familiar with the valley of the Yukon and the surrounding country. The greatest activity in placer mining is now in the British possessions, about forty miles east of the 141st meridian, which is our boundary. But if you look at the map and see where gold has been found, you will observe that all the lodes seem to lead into Alaska.

"There is a certain regularity about gold findings. South of the Klondyke in British Columbia is the Cariboo region, which was the scene of a former gold excitement. Crews on vessels deserted, and there was the same sort of a rush, on a smaller scale, that we have seen in the Klondyke. Then directly east of the 'Pan-Handle' of our Alaska territory is the celebrated Cassir country. Here are the head waters of the Pelly river, and the confluence of the Lewis and the Pelly makes the Yukon. The richness of the Cassir country has long been known, and it belongs to the same general trend, geologically speaking, as the Klondyke. This trend is parallel to the west coast of the continent. Wherever the tributaries of these rivers have been prospected gold has generally been found. Forty Mile creek, Sixty Mile creek and Birch creek are instances

in point. The head waters of all these streams are in a group of mountains, the area of which is probably a thousand square miles. It is mostly unexplored, but largely within the territory of the United States, and it is probably rich in gold. Of the country farther north we know little as yet, although it is well watered and belongs to the same mountain range. It is entirely likely that placer mining can be carried on through this country for a distance of 500 miles.

A FORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCE.

"The prospect of finding most of the gold in our own territory is very fortunate. The Canadians will doubtless devise some way of discriminating against alien laborers in their territory, either by taxation or by a more direct restriction. If we have gold fields of our own on our side of the line perhaps the two countries may treat each other with reciprocal courtesy.

"I am much impressed with the opportunities for profit in other things in Alaska besides this gold. The fisheries of the coast are most remarkable, and when fully developed may yield larger returns than the mines. Then the coal, now that a population is going into the country which will want to use it, is a very important thing."

GREAT TREADWELL MINE.

Over across the channel from Juneau is probably the most stupendous gold-mining proposition in the world, and its success is all based on the ability of the metallurgist to separate and recover the finely powdered gold that is hidden in a million times its bulk of worthless rock. The task of locating a needle in a haystack would seem a May-day diversion by the side of it, yet it is in this same ratio that the great Treadwell makes $2,000 a day.

The mine is located on Douglas island, across the channel a mile from the mainland. A great ledge of quartzite, 250 feet across, extends up and down the shore for an unknown distance. The ore that has been worked in the few years that the mine has been in operation may be one-tenth and it may not be one-

thousandth part of the whole available mass. In color it is a dead white, flecked sparsely with little barren-looking cubes of sulphuret, but throughout the whole thickness of the vein there is hardly any variation in its appearance or value.

METHOD OF PLACER MINING.

In view of the keen attention manifested by the general public in regard to the recent marvelous discoveries of gold in the Klondyke region, the following description of the process of placer mining, taken from an official report of William Ogilvie, a Canadian government surveyor, may be of interest. Mr. Ogilvie has spent much time in the Yukon country, and this extract is taken from his report for last year:

"The process of placer mining is about as follows: After clearing all the coarse gravel and stones off a patch of ground, the miner lifts a little of the firmer gravel or sand in his pan, which is a broad, shallow dish, made of strong sheetiron; he then puts in water enough to fill the pan and gives it a few rapid whirls and shakes; this tends to bring the gold to the bottom on account of its greater specific gravity. The dish is then shaken and held in such a way that the gravel and sand are gradually washed out, care being taken to avoid letting out the finer and heavier parts that have settled to the bottom. Finally all that is left in the pan is whatever gold may have been in the dish, and some black sand which almost invariably accompanies it. This black sand is nothing but pulverized magnetic iron ore.

"Should the gold thus found be fine, the contents of the pan are thrown into a barrel containing water and a pound or two of mercury. As soon as the gold comes in contact with the mercury, it combines and forms an amalgam. This process is continued until enough amalgam has been formed to pay for 'roasting' or 'firing.' It is then squeezed through a buckskin bag, all the mercury that comes through the bag being put back into the barrel to serve again, and what remains in the bag is placed in a retort, if the miner has

one, or, if not, on a shovel, and heated until nearly all the mercury is vaporized. The gold then remains in a lump with some mercury still held in combination with it. This is called the 'pan' or 'hand' method, and is never, on account of its slowness and laboriousness, continued for any length of time when it is possible to procure a 'rocker,' or to make and work sluices.

SLUICING FOR GOLD.

"Sluicing is always employed when possible. It requires a good supply of water, with sufficient head or fall. The process is as follows: Planks are procured and formed into a box of suitable width and depth. Slats are fixed across the bottom of the box at suitable intervals, or shallow holes bored in the bottom in such order that no particle could run along the bottom in a straight line and escape running over a hole. Several of these boxes are then set up with a considerable slope, and are fitted into one another at the ends, like a stovepipe. A stream of water is now directed into the upper end of the highest box. The gravel having been collected, as in the case of the rocker, it is shoveled into the upper box, and is washed downward by the strong current of water. The gold is detained by its weight, and is held by the slats or in the holes mentioned; if it is fine, mercury is placed behind the slats or in these holes to catch it.

"In this way about three times as much dirt can be washed as by the rocker, and consequently three times as much gold can be secured in a given time.

"A great many of the miners spend their time in the summer prospecting, and in the winter resort to what is called 'burning.' They make fires on the surface, thus thawing the ground until the bedrock is reached. The pay dirt is brought to the surface and heaped in a pile until spring, when water can be obtained. The sluice boxes are then set up and the dirt is washed out, thus enabling the miner to work advantageously and profitably the year round. This method has been found very satisfactory in places where the pay streak is at any great depth from the surface. In this way

the complaint is overcome which has been so commonly advanced by miners and others that in the Yukon several months of the year are lost in idleness."

RELATIVE COST OF MINING GOLD.

A most interesting but unique compilation of the relative cost of mining ore and extracting the gold at the principal mines of the country has been made by an American mining engineer of experience and ability.

The mines about which he gives information include those of Africa, Venezuela, Alaska and the United States. The report is especially interesting in view of reports from the gold fields of Alaska, which are just now attracting great attention by reason of their unusual richness. From the expert's report it is learned that the cost of mining gold in Alaska is much cheaper than in the far-famed mines of South Africa.

Much information was given concerning the Transvaal mines, and, in fact, the report is the only reliable one that has been published. The reefs of the Witwatersrand are conglomerate beds, which have been traced for some fifty miles, showing varying thickness and gold value, and have been probed a vertical depth of 3,130 feet. The excellence of the African mines seems not to be due to their richness but rather to the continuous bodies of gold of a moderate grade. It was estimated by Hamilton Smith in 1893 that within the then recognized paying area of the Witwatersrand there was probably $1,625,000,000 worth of gold to be extracted, while Professor Becker estimated twice that amount. Taking Professor Becker's estimate at the present rate at which gold is being taken out, the mines would have a life of about ninety years. As a matter of fact, the life of the mines will be shorter because of the increased activity which is shown.

IMPORTANCE OF SECOND TREATMENT.

An interesting feature noticed from the tables is that the yield from secondary treatment is shown to be 128

1.14d per ton on the basis of tonnage milled, with a profit of 8s 10.8d. From which it is evident that of the total profit obtained by the combined treatment 92 per cent. came from the secondary treatment, without which not even the richest mines could have paid dividends.

Comparisons with other mines are difficult because of the varying conditions, but those made here have value. The first mine considered in the comparison is the Alaska Treadwell mine, which is compared with the Crown Reef conditions. It is shown that stores for which the Alaska mine would have had to pay £12,651 would have cost the Crown Reef mines £35,324. The Crown Reef Company is compelled on this basis to pay 5s 6d more for stores per ton on their tonnage of 198,236.

The following table shows the comparative cost per ton milled at the Crown Reef mine and the Alaska Treadwell, the figures being converted at the rate of 24 cents to the shilling:

	—Crown Reef—		—Treadwell—	
	Per Ton.	Per Ct.	Per Ton.	Per Ct.
Labor	$3.72	57.98	$0.70	63.78
Coal	62	9.79	10	8.57
Dynamite	58	9.11	10	8.37
Cyanide zinc and royalty	40	6.35	..	....
Timber	10	1.55	2	0.79
Steel, mining	8	1.32	2	0.72
Oils	6	0.87	2	0.92
Candles	8	1.20	2	0.23
Mill spares	10	1.52	8	6.54
Fuse and decorators	4	0.57	2	1.02
Trucks, wheels and rails	4	0.69	2	0.01
Pipes and fittings	2	0.36	2	0.50
General expense	56	8.79	4	3.46
Chlorination supplies	..	....	6	5.09
Total cost per ton	$6.40	100.00	$1.12	100.00

PROSPECTS FOR BIG YIELD.

Hon. C. B. McIntosh, governor of the Northwest Territory freely vouches for the truthfulness of the stories sent out as to the richness of the new diggings. He estimates that the Klondyke and its tributaries yielded over $3,000,000 in gold last winter. Of this amount, he says $2,000,000 and upward came via the steamships Portland and Excelsior. More than $1,000,000 in dust, he says, is now stored away in the cabins of the miners along the creek being developed.

"The British Yukon yield of gold for 1897," the governor said, "will not be less than $10,000,000." He says surveyors are now at work trying to ascertain the feasibility of a construction of railroad into the Yukon. One route contemplates a line of steamers from Fort Wrangel up the Styken river.

"It appears," he says, 'that four or five millions have been taken out by the gold hunters in a few months. It must be remembered that this has been done by a few persons and under unfavorable conditions. It is fair to assume, therefore, that if the reports we have are well founded, the gold product of this region will equal that of California at its best. It will probably produce $50,000,000 a year.

"This will not be put away, but for the most part will go into circulation. It may be anticipated, therefore, that the volume of circulating money will be considerably increased each year, after a year or two, and that it will have a generally beneficial effect upon the business of the country.

Though it is not generally known, Senator Jones, of Nevada, is extensively interested in Alaska. His company, the Juneau, is said to be running the largest stamp mill in the world. They are working from grade ore, but are clearing a profit, it is said, of between $500,000 and $600,000 a year.